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A MESSAGE
FROM
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA.

NEW PALACE.
Pudukkottai, 27-6-41.

Having just celebrated a birthday of my own, it gives me great pleasure to send felicitations to the Editor of the War Information Bureau Bulletin on the occasion of his first anniversary issue.

I was greatly interested in the scheme for disseminating accurate information about the War among my subjects from its inception, but I feel that few could have foreseen the success the Bulletin has had in the State, or the interest it has aroused in places far beyond our boundaries.

I therefore gladly send my congratulations to the Bureau and to the State Press on the high level of informativeness and punctuality the Bulletin has maintained and my hopes that while the crisis lasts there will be no lessening of a notable effort to keep us all closely and correctly informed of the vital affairs in which we in this State, as well as the Government of India and His Majesty's Empire, are involved.

RAJAGOPALA TONDAIMAN,
Raja of Pudukkottai.

MESSAGE FROM
SIR ALEXANDER TOTTENHAM, C. I. E.,
ADMINISTRATOR, PUDUKKOTTAI STATE.

Captain G. T. B. Harvey and those who have worked with him on the War Information Bureau deserve to be heartily congratulated on the completion of a year's successful work.

The quality of the Bulletins has been exceedingly, and consistently, high, and has been recognised far beyond the borders of our State—I doubt whether it has been excelled anywhere and I hope this high standard will be maintained in the months or years to come.

A FEW ANNIVERSARY NOTES.

1. ***People who have asked to be supplied with this Bulletin:—***

A Prime Minister.
A Lady Superior.
A German prisoner-of-war.
A General Manager of a Railway.
An A. F. S. worker in London.
A Commander of an Indian warship.
A Principal of a Brotherhood.
A British Resident.

—and several dozen illiterate urchins after each lecture!

2. In the past year, we have delivered 204 lectures in the Town and 455 in the mofussil.

- We have been listened to (without heckling or missiles) by 165,860 people.
- Nevertheless, attendances have almost doubled since our lecturers brought war-films with them.
- We have covered ten thousand acres of paper with free printed war-news—and God knows how much with manuscript!
- The public of the 'metropolis' are the least-informed (or least-interested) about the war, to judge from our statistics. "Try em wiv a nut!" as the saying goes, or perhaps, in our case, with films.
- Our office peon must almost be able to qualify in physique for a P. T. instructor. He cycles about 40 miles a day regularly on Bureau business.
- About 11,000 people have sat in our chairs (under a fan) studied our periodicals, maps and charts, and signed their names with those of Governors and Residents and such like, in our book.
- We have engaged the State Press in 9,156 overtime hours.
- We, the War Information Bureau, were five when we started. We are now 20. But there is still room for men of light and learning. (*More* men of light and learning we mean!)

AIR STATISTICS FOR A YEAR.

2—7—40 to 1—7—41.

Statement A.

	Places and centres raided by R. A. F.		No. of attacks.
Europe.	Boulogne	...	91
	Calais	...	80
	Ostend	...	71
	Hamburg	...	70
	Brest	...	63
	Bremen	...	65
	Cologne	...	55
	Ruhr	...	47
	Hamm	...	46
	Berlin	...	45
	Lorient	...	42
	Kiel	...	39
	Emden	...	39
	Wilhelmshaven	...	38
	Mannheim	...	31
	Gelsenkirchen	...	29
	Hanover	...	26
	Dusseldorf	...	24
	Essen	...	22
	Soest	...	21
	Osnabruck	...	18
	Rhineland	...	11
Africa.	Benghazi	...	75
	Tobruk	...	58
	Bardia	...	40
	Tripoli	...	31
	Massawa	...	22
	El. Gubbi	...	17

Statement B.

Daily Air Raids.

Enemy SHIPPING at Sea.
Enemy AERODROMES in GERMANY, German-occupied EUROPE and Italian AFRICA.

Statement C.

Air losses.

Over.			*for BRITAIN.*	*for GERMANY.*
German occupied Europe		...	559	577
Malta ...	...	...	39	161
Africa	...	...	123	486
Britain (itself)	...	...	784	3439
Iraq ...	...	...	4	24
Syria ...	...	...	15	51
Sea ...	...	...	7	54
Russia	...	...	38 (for Russia).	257 (for Germany).

Note:—1. These losses do not include the number of planes damaged.

Note:—2. Italian losses in planes are included in German losses.

LECTURE LII.

LATEST AIR TACTICS.

While world attention is for the moment concentrated on the mighty land battle in progress between GERMANY and RUSSIA, it is as well to remember that the even more important struggle, between the biggest land power and the biggest sea power has not eased off. The Battle of the Atlantic still rages, ceaselessly, grimly and silently. The Sunderland Flying Boats and the American Carolinas, called by our pilots Roosevelt's babies, the Hudsons, the Ansons and the Blenheims take their part in the mighty Battle of the Atlantic in all its phases.

A VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS. They have convoyed thousands of vessels ever since the war began. They have rescued thousands of men drifting on the high seas. They have dropped food and water for rafts, and they keep their unending search for enemy ships, enemy transports and enemy lairs, day in, day out.

But perhaps their principal objective is the U-Boat. With untiring energy, ceaseless vigilance and considerable skill, they search out and harry this deadly enemy. Imagine the vast wastes of the Atlantic between DAKAR and PERNAMBUCO. Even a big battleship is but a speck on the ocean. Yet in defiance of the high seas and the howling winds, these planes pursue the submarines and surface raiders of the enemy. The feather of a periscope or the streak of oil cannot be detected except by the most courageous vigilance. If the weather is bad and visibility poor these mighty four-engined giants of the air may have to fly as low as 90 to 100 feet above the waves, like the king fishers of Brobdingnag waiting for their prey. Even in clear weather, they will not fly higher than 1500 feet above the sea, if they are to detect the presence of the submarine.

This search for the U-boats is planned in meticulous detail and systematically carried out. Each plane is relieved every fifteen hours. A fifteen hour vigil—not a passive vigil, mind you, but an active scrutiny of the seas—is itself a nerve-exhausting job. They plot out and divide the high seas and see that no area is omitted. When once a submarine's presence is detected the information is sent all round, and

the warships converge and pursue the U-boat till its power of enduring under water is exhausted, and it is compelled to come to the surface and meet its doom from the guns of the Royal Navy.

SOME PLANE TYPES. The Germans call our reconnaissance planes, the Sunderlands "flying porcupines," because of the number of guns that they have. We may hear more of the American counterpart, the "Carolinas," because of their longer range, larger accommodation and load bearing capacity, for these factors are vital in carrying on a battle waged thousands of miles away from the air bases.

The Germans also have four-engined long-range planes, the Fockewulfes, the Condors and the Kuriers, all bomber-and-reconnaissance types. They start for their day's job from MERIGNAC and end their semi-circular flight at STAVANGAR in NORWAY! The R. A. F. have naturally bombed and destroyed the hangars and aerodrome buildings in these two places quite frequently. "Search and strike" is their motto!

On a different sort of mission, our "Beauforts" have many times flown low along the enemy coasts and torpedoed with deadly effect many supply ships bound for the enemy outposts in NORWAY. At night and in all kinds of weather the Beauforts, and other planes of the Fleet Air Arm, have mined the routes by which the enemy supplies his outposts.

The R. A. F. do a still more important job in attacking the submarine bases and factories in occupied FRANCE and GERMANY. Our attacks on the invasion ports and submarine bases must have had the desired effect, for we heard of Hitler demanding from the Vichy Government the use of their centres of heavy industries in unoccupied FRANCE, so that construction and repair of these U-boats may be beyond the range of our bombers.

The R. A. F's answer has been to advance its offensive range, and they have by no means spared such French centres of heavy industry as COMMINES for instance. More than that, for the last four weeks we have been hearing of a real British air offensive gradually getting into its stride. Where for months it was a matter of fights over the channel and then over FRANCE occupied and unoccupied, it is now the enemy country itself which daily dreads the British bomber.

SWIFT DEVELOPMENTS. New types of planes, new methods of attack and defence, new kinds of manoeuvres and new schemes are being evolved and used. Old reputations do not count. Men who have shown courage, originality, and organising dynamism are now directing the energies of the most patriotic and united nation that the world has ever witnessed.

Till a few months back the Hurricane and the Spitfires,—the Wellingtons, the Whitleys and the Blenheims were considered the last word in fighters and bombers. Now the old types have been fitted with more powerful engines enabling them to go faster, manoeuvre quicker, and stay longer. The Boeing fighter is a giant, a flying fortress with great potentialities of attack, resistance and power of endurance. Heavy bombers of longer range, larger bomb loading capacity and bombs of greater power of destruction are now in use. We have already heard the fame of the "Douglas B 19", and American "Carolinas" are now being used in the Battle of the Atlantic, with marked success.

As to bombs, the types we are now using have *five times the explosive power of the old types*, while the long-debated act of aerial torpedoing has now been made effective where accurate hits over swift moving objects are intended to be secured. We instance the devastating effect of the aerial torpedo attack in the Battle of TARANTO; while the American "Catalin" flying boat secured immortality by its feat with an aerial torpedo against the *Bismarck*. Of this subject, more anon.

AIR COMBAT TACTICS BY DAY. Now a word about the new problems of air fighting necessitated by the improvements in machine designs. After Hitler lost the Battle for BRITAIN last September, daylight bombing by lone sorties under cover of cloud was resorted to. The effectiveness and the number of such attacks depended on the position and depth of the clouds in relation to the target. This necessitated careful reconnaissance, before a so-called "undercover raid" could start.

Occasionaly "open raids" were made during daylight, but these were found to be costly experiments, owing to the counter-attacks put up by British defence fighter-planes. We, on the other hand, have by no means abandoned "open raids", as BREMEN, KIEL and BERLIN can well

testify. To minimise losses the whole raid has to be completed at lightning speed and from high altitudes, if targets in the enemy country are as well defended as they should be. Speed or altitude bombing requires a lot of courage, iron nerve, navigational and directional skill. Our pilots have come off with flying colours in these types of bombing.

Latterly our bombers in "open" day light raids have been escorted by fighters. An unescorted bomber cannot tackle successfully an interceptor fighter, because the fire power and manoeuvreability of the bomber are very much less. The escort fighter, in its turn is at a disadvantage in its fight against the short-range interceptor-fighter. Built to carry fuel for long flight, it is heavier, slower, and less easily manoeuvreable than an interceptor. Further its job is to protect the bomber; its movements and manoeuvres are controlled by the single aim of bomber protection. Moreover, even while engaged in a fight against enemy fighters, the pilot *must always have his eye on the oil gauge*; he has got to get home while there is enough oil! Sometimes, as a matter of fact, when one's attention is concentrated on the enemy, it is very difficult to turn home. It is the very thing that the enemy wants you to do, for the moment you expose your tail you can be easily shot down. Fighters fight forward. Their guns are trained towards a point in front. Their sole object is to bring their nose towards the enemy, with as much speed as possible, and to shoot with as much rapidity as possible.

You may imagine that the tactics of enemy interceptors will sometimes be to lead away escorting fighters from their escort, by a two-level or multi-level attack, or by onslaughts by several groups from several levels. Thus when our fighters are engaged by one group of enemy fighters, our bombers are exposed to attack by fighters descending or ascending from other levels. Our escort fighters are equipped with revolving gun turrets, it is true, but the revolving gun turret meets the situation only half way. This main armament cannot be used against the swift, agile, fighters in the rear; and an escort-fighter's rear guns are merely defensive weapons. New tactics are being evolved from actual experience, and a time may come when a plane will be invented to attack all round, but at present the best fighting power is forward, and an interceptor fighter, operating near its base, will out-match the long-range fighter operating from a far off base.

This is exactly the advantage our Hurricanes and Spitfires have over the Messerschmidt 109 in British skies. But in this case the enemy have a great advantage to set against our natural supremacy. Enemy long-range fighters operate from only 150 miles away in the occupied territory; ours on a similar mission have to go 600 miles and travel back 600 miles. Thus enemy visitors are able to stay over BRITAIN longer than ours are able to stay over GERMANY. Hence the necessity for a very large defensive short-range fighter force, so that wave after wave our fighters can be sent up to drive off the enemy from the British skies.

Put in another way, in a combat between a long-range fighter and an interceptor fighter, the long-range fighter can only master the other if their operating bases are an equal distance away. The present inherent disability of our long-range fighter as an escort fighter is the reason for the reluctance of some R. A. F. Officers to adopt the principle of escorting day-bombers. By hitching it to a bomber you deprive it of its manoeuvring agility and firing sweep.

The latest news of the British air offensive refers to successful day-light bombing by formations in escort. But opposition appears to have been weak, possibly because the enemy is now engaged in a knockout blow at RUSSIA, and the conclusion reached by Oliver Stewart that it is no good expecting more success from day-light operations without great loss, unless a new type of bomber, with better performance as against fighters makes its appearance, seems to hold good.

AIR TACTICS BY NIGHT. Enemy night raids against ENGLAND are becoming scarcer. In February, 16 enemy planes were shot down, in March 43 and in April 87, and the improvement of A. A. guns and night fighters probably accounts for the *Luftwaffe's* increasing shyness.

Night fighters use ordinary eye sight during raids on moon-lit nights, which thus differ very little from day-light operations. For sighting during dark nights special detection devices have been invented. The latest method, which promises soon to revolutionise warfare against both the U-Boat and the night raider, is called radio-location.

Night Raids over the enemy country :—Britain has not relaxed her attacks on the enemy bases during nights, merely because she has intensified day-bombing.

The 'Douglas Havoc' and the 'Boeing' are among the most modern fighters used for such expeditions. Apart from bombing specified military objects (called primary objectives) they are armed to attack almost any enemy that may present itself on their way. They pay special attention in these night raids to hangars and enemy planes. They cruise over enemy air bases in the darkness, and wait for the flare path to be lit and for the enemy planes to take off or land. Then our planes swoop low, coolly take toll from the enemy machines and personnel, and then bomb the hangars and the buildings. In an age of daily heroism we are so near such fantastic adventure that we little realize their glory, but that they have great effect on enemy morale is certain—as certain as it is that the enemy is hastily improving his ground defences, A. A. guns and night fighters, in order to make these night raids as dangerous to the attacker as in day-light.

TORPEDO-CARRYING AIRCRAFT. Our attack on the Italian Warships last November in the Gulf of TARANTO made front-line news of the aerial torpedo. An aircraft from the Aircraft-carrier *Illustrious* did most of the damage, and the success of the later action off Cape MATAPAN was due to the effective co-operation of the British reconnaissance planes with the Royal Navy, plus, again, the successful use of the aerial torpedo in speed-reducing hits on enemy vessels.

The high water-mark of aerial reconnaissance, and attack was reached in the action against the *Bismarck*. The British reconnaissance planes reported that the *Bismarck* had left BERGEN in NORWAY. It was stalked till it was met by the British Fleet off the coast of GREENLAND. When '*Bismarck*' sank '*Hood*' and tried to escape, the hunt was taken up in grim earnest, and in the darkness of the night, the *Bismarck* was pursued relentlessly and attacked by aerial torpedoes from the aircraft of the new aircraft-carrier, the *Victorious* and the land-based 'Catalin' flying-boats. Though hits reduced her speed considerably, her trail was actually lost, but then began one of the most dramatic and difficult searches ever undertaken on the high seas. The land-plane 'Lockheed Hudson' and the 'Catalin' flying-boat took major parts in this hunt,

and '*Bismarck*' was rediscovered 400 miles away from the refuge of BREST where the final stroke was delivered by "*Ark Royal*" planes with an aerial torpedo.

THE VALUE OF AERODROMES. Not so happy an example of the new use of air power is offered by the CRETE campaign. Sea power in the narrow waters of the Eastern Mediterranean was at a discount when up against land-based aircraft. GERMANY with her air bases nearer CRETE prevailed over BRITAIN, who was not able to bring her sea-power to play and had no sufficient ground defences to ward off air attacks.

We had a few aerodromes it is true, but when the battle is fought in your skies, you must never allow the visitor to capture your aerodrome. You must defend it at all costs. If that is impossible you must destroy it and render it useless. The abandonment intact of the MELAME aerodrome enabled enemy troop-carriers and dive-bombers to land and take off again for attack, whereas, till then, they had had to adopt the desperate, costly and disheartening manoeuvre of crash-landing.

Here in CRETE again, the superiority of short-range interceptors with local bases over long range fighters was proved. The British long-range fighters operating from ALEXANDRIA had only a short time to engage the Messerschmidts, the Stuka dive-bombers and the junkers 52, while German fighters from nearer bases had much more petrol in hand.

GLIDER-PLANES AND PARACHUTES. In CRETE, a concentrated form of invasion by parachute troops in gliders was adopted with some measure of success.

The parachute-troops idea was conceived and developed by the Russians. In this as in other original forms of air war, the Russians have been pioneers. Air-borne troops, air-borne tanks and glider "Trains" were all conceived and developed by the Russians for military use. The Germans, however, have perfected these methods, and since CRETE, a short explanation of this new menace will not be out of place.

Two engineless aircraft called gliders are generally towed by a troop-carrying aeroplane. A troop-carrier under its own steam, so to speak, carries twenty-two soldiers, but when it tows gliders, it takes

only ten soldiers, while each of two gliders carries twelve. Thus thirty-four soldiers are landed at a time by a towing troop-carrier. When within gliding reach of their landing ground, the engineless carriers are cut adrift from their planes and steer themselves silently, sometimes over scores of miles, towards the earth. The machines themselves, of course, can never be recovered except by subsequent capture, but they have done their work when twenty-four parachutes with armed-men attached leave them at an altitude of say 500 or 1000 feet.

The Russian military stratagists originally proposed to use this system for landing saboteurs and fifth column agents in an enemy country. Little by little, according to them, considerable bodies of troops could be "infiltrated" into the enemy territory and be available for ambushes and surprise actions. General Wavell, who has visited RUSSIA before the war, seems to have reported favourably, to the British Government on the military possibilities of parachute troops, and a trial was made by us in ITALY some months back, which resulted in the destruction of important military objectives.

On the other hand, a parachute troop attack is bound to be most wasteful where the struggle is static, as in the case of a siege or an army on the defensive, well entrenched and well provided with ground defences such as the Home front in BRITAIN. The time consumed by para-troops in landing and forming into a compact army of occupation must be considerable, and that is the precise moment at which the besieged or defending army will choose to strike hard at the landing troops.

The ultimate success of a parachute attack depends of course on the regularity of the supply of men and material, in order to maintain unrelaxed the pressure once imposed. This was possible for the enemy in CRETE, since he could operate from a near base, while the island was insufficiently fortified, and provided with aerodromes for our own relieving aircraft. On the other hand, though the enemy has near enough bases in FRANCE, he has not yet attempted this form of attack against BRITAIN! The reason is not far to seek. His bases, CALAIS, LORIENT, ST. NAZAIRE aud DUNKIRK and so on are within reach of our air fighter-bombers, and most of these sites have been so plastered by our Beaverbrook's "Beautiful bombs", that the embarking of air-invaders in bulk is not a very attractive idea.

APPENDIX I.

GERMANS FIGHT SHY OF LONG-RANGE AIR OPERATIONS.

IMPORTANCE OF BASES TO LUFTWAFFE.

SITUATION IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

by

Oliver Stewart (In a recent B. B, C. talk).

OPERATIONS in the Middle East are steadily increasing in complexity. We may expect, however, that the capture of Crete by the Germans, and the move into Syria by the British and Free French Forces, are likely to be the pivots of future moves in this theatre.

We have had lately plenty of proof that air bases are the things that determine the course of future events more than anything else. The Germans begin their big operations from advanced air bases, and we defend, strongly or weakly, according to the air bases we have.

It looks as if the offensive effect of an armed force spreads out from its air bases rather like the ripples which spread out from the place a stone falls in a pond. As it goes farther and farther out, it grows weaker.

The German High Command has been **a great believer in the strength of the air arm when it is used at close range.** One could almost classify every major operation undertaken by the Germans, according to the air bases available.

Everybody has known for a long time how the enemy has placed his faith in air power, but it is only recently that it has become plain how he puts his faith in the bases for air power. **Every campaign is the repetition of the same formula, a rush for air bases and then the fullest possible use of them.**

FUNDAMENTAL LIMITATIONS.

Knowing the German method we can look at the Middle East and see how situation there is affected. First of all, it is clear that by the capture of Crete the Germans have placed their air force in a better position for worrying our shipping in the Eastern Mediterranean. Their dive-bombers can reach out from Crete right across to the North African coast. Every ship that passes is within range. Our Navy, which has already fought so well against German aircraft, will have to fight even grimmer battles in the future. The only mitigating feature of this sea-air position in the Eastern Mediterranean is concerned with the fundamental limitations of dive-bombers.

Dive-bombers achieve accuracy against small moving targets at the expense of penetration. They can hit ships very often with their bombs, but as they drop their bombs from a low level, the bombs are not going at full speed when they hit their targets, with the result that they have relatively small powers of penetration.

The result of all this is that, in this area of the sea, the Germans from their bases in Crete **may be able to damage our merchant vessels and unarmoured vessels with their dive-bombers. But they will not be much better placed than they were before for damaging our heavily armoured ships.**

It is worth recalling that aircraft carrier, *Illustrious*, managed to live through what was, probably, the heaviest dive-bombing attack ever delivered at sea. The *Illustrious* was damaged but she reached Alexandria under her own power and making a good average speed.

So she added to the other evidence already amassed which points to the fact that dive-bombers are very deadly when they attack unarmoured ships, but less deadly when they attack armoured ships.

From Crete the German dive-bombers will be a constant trouble to our ships, but **they will not be able, if previous experience is a guide, to take anything approaching decisive action against the Navy in those waters.**

FIGHTING ON LAND.

And now, let us look at the second side, that concerned with the fighting on land. By taking Crete the Germans have moved up their advance air bases 100 miles or so nearer to Egypt. They have not got appreciably nearer to Syria or Iraq, because the Italians already hold the Island of Rhodes.

From Crete and Southern Greece, German bombers can fly out to places like Alexandria, and they can easily reach Tobruk. Air-borne troops could be taken over to these places.

But those places are defended by our fighters and our fighters are working from nearby bases. So we come back to the original point, that the farther the enemy machines have to fly and the shorter distance our own machines have to fly, the better the chances of successful interception.

It seems to be generally supposed that the Germans must try and intervene in Syria. If so, they will, if they keep to the policy they have adopted hitherto, first try and seize bases near to the scene of operations. That might mean an attack on Cyprus. You have all noticed the success of the German air-borne invasion of Crete. They might try a similar kind of invasion of Cyprus as a preliminary to interfering in Syria.

They have already shown that they are particularly interested in Iraqi oil. So Syria is important to them. But an air-borne invasion of Cyprus, even if it were in the end successful, will take time. And every gain in time of this kind is of value to us.

GERMAN POLICY.

Crete has for ages been regarded as the strategical key to the Eastern Mediterranean and its capture by the Germans has made our problems in Syria and Egypt much more difficult. But it still does remain true that the Germans have had all their air successes at short range, and that if they are to interfere in Syria without first taking Cyprus, they will have to change their policy and work at long range. It is worth keeping in mind what range differences mean to military aircraft.

In the first place, fighters of the high performance type can only work effectively close to their bases, say 150 miles away. In the second place, bombers and troop-carriers can only take big loads when they are working near their bases. Petrol weighs about 7½ pounds a gallon. If an aeroplane has to be loaded up with enough to allow it to operate at a range of 400 or 500 miles, the petrol occupies so much of the load that there is less left for bombs or troops.

The longest-range air operation of this war, so far as I can remember, was a flight by Royal Air Force aeroplanes to South West Poland and back. They flew about 1,750 miles in all, which means they were working at an effective range of 875 miles. They did not carry a very big load. In fact, I think, their duty was dropping leaflets.

The Germans have never attempted to operate at anything approaching that range. Their whole policy is against it. They prefer to get nearby bases into their hands and to wait until then before launching any big-scale air operations.

SHORT-RANGE TACTICS.

In the bombing attacks on Great Britain, the Germans delayed large-scale action **until they had their bases just over the water in occupied France.** They did not make any big bombing attack on Paris till they were next door to it. Their air assault on Greece was delayed until they had installed themselves in bases only a short distance away.

So we can sum up the present position in the Eastern Mediterranean by saying that unless the Germans make a further gain, for instance of Cyprus, **they will be unable to employ their usual short-range air tactics against us, either in Egypt or in Syria.** They have plenty of long-range machines, so there is no

technical reason why they should not adopt long-range tactics. But the particular type of machine on which they place a good deal of reliance, the single-engined dive-bomber, could not then operate.

The Junkers 87 dive-bomber, which the Germans used so extensively in Poland, in Holland, in France, Greece and Crete, is a short-range machine. It could not be used to the fullest effect at long-range. The Junkers 88 is also a dive-bomber, and it is a twin-engined machine with a much longer range. But the Germans have not so far shown any disposition to pour it into the battle in the way they pour in the single-engined machines.

By her gains in Greece and in Crete Germany has vastly improved her position for making attacks on our shipping in the Eastern Mediterranean. She is also better off for making long-range night attacks on such places as Alexandria. But she has not achieved a position from which she could repeat her short-range air tactics.

The nearest point on which the Germans might try to direct their heavy dive-bombing attack is Tobruk. They do now hold air bases less than 250 miles away from it, and they may use these bases for such attacks. But even here their position, except at night, is **not so completely favourable as it has been elsewhere when they have thrown in their air force.**

FAVOURABLE POSITION.

Tobruk is under our fighter umbrella. Our fighters based on Egypt can operate over it and can tackle enemy bombers there. We cannot, of course, expect to take such a heavy toll of enemy bombers there as we take in this country. But our fighters will certainly interfere with enemy bombing and will whittle away at the enemy formations.

Here is a summary of the position in the Eastern Mediterranean as I look at it. The Germans cannot yet work at short-range there. They have never yet shown any wish to work at long-range. The consequence is that they must either alter their methods and try to work at long-range, or else they must take an intermediate step before they play an active part in the operations in Syria.

I am not going to say that the Germans will not work at longer range. I can see no reason why air-borne troops should not be used at 400 miles as they have been used at 150. But obviously the problem is a bit more difficult, and it has been shown that the Germans prefer to avoid it when possible. For once, the Royal Air Force finds itself fighting an enemy who must come a long away before he can begin his attacks. That is a more favourable position than we have enjoyed for some time. We may be able to make good use of it.

APPENDIX II.

COMING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AIR WAR.
INCREASE IN NIGHT RAIDING.
VALUE OF NEW R. A. F. PLANES.

by

Oliver Stewart (In a recent B. B. C. Talk.)

MORE than one responsible minister of the present Government has warned us that further and heavier bombing attacks on this country are to be expected in the future. Arrangements are being made to meet them, both in the air and on the ground.

This second battle of the bombs is going to be a grim business. The bombing forces of both sides have been augmented. More machines will be used and each machine will carry a bigger load. Whether the new attacks will be 50 per cent heavier or 100 per cent heavier than the previous ones, no one can tell. But they certainly will be heavier.

So there will be a battle in which the civil defence services, the civil population and the air forces of both sides will be engaged directly, as front line troops are engaged in land battles.

I am going to look over our chances in this coming battle, for I think that nothing short of a fundamental change in the whole tendency of the war will stop it. As long as Britain and Germany are prevented from coming to grips directly in the field, they will continue to do what they can to get at one another by means of air attack.

DEFENCE. First of all, let us look at the defence. It is spread out among the night fighter squadrons, and the anti-aircraft batteries, and the A. R. P. workers and the fire services. They all bear a part. Night fighters have been increasing in numbers lately, and what is more important, they have been improving their efficiency in finding the enemy. This is dependent on various instrumental methods of detection and it has long been considered the crux of the whole problem.

There is no doubt that a lot of successful work has been done in developing these instruments recently. And now night fighter pilots stand a much better chance of finding the enemy than they did a year ago. The gradual improvement in night interception has testified to the progress that has been made in this field.

In the month of May 144 enemy aircraft were brought down along the coast of Great Britain by night. This was more than twice the number brought down in this region during the same month by day.

By day the shooting down of an enemy machine is about 60 per cent finding it and about 40 per cent attacking it successfully. By night I suppose the proportions are about 95 per cent and 50 per cent.

If the night fighter can be led up to the enemy, it will not usually have much difficulty in shooting him down. But the finding is a matter of extraordinary difficulty. That has been the whole reason for the troubles we have had in the past in tackling night raiders.

Our night fighter pilots could not find them, except when the visibility was exceptionally good. There are innumerable difficulties, many of which have not been publicly discussed. For instance, there was the difficulty of eliminating the glow from the engine.

A high-power aero-engine may be surrounded by an exhaust ring which gives off a faint glow at night. The glow is not very noticeable in the ordinary way. But when the pilot has to peer out into the night sky and try and find another machine, it becomes a serious trouble. So methods had to be developed to enable high power engines to run without the exhaust giving the smallest glow on the darkest night.

That was only one of the difficulties; there were a host of others. And then, finally, there was the key difficulty of ascertaining the position of the enemy aircraft and of following him on his course.

Enemy night bombers rarely fly on a straight course at a fixed height. If they think it will help them to evade anti-aircraft fire and fighters, they will alter course and height quite often, and they may vary their height from about 20,000 feet or more down to about 6,000 feet.

And then there is the chief trouble, which is to make all the defence arrangements work quickly enough to bring the night fighter pilot in contact with the raider in time. Enemy bomber speeds vary. The Junkers 88 which has been used a certain amount at night is the fastest of the normal bombers. But the Messerschmitt 110 fighter bomber has also been used.

Our defence arrangements must work quickly enough to deal with the fastest enemy machine that can be used at night. If you take the Messerschmitt 110's top speed as 350 miles an hour, and assume it cruises at about 300 miles an hour, you will see how quickly everything has to work.

From the time it passes the coast to the time it is dropping bombs on London, the interval might be 20 minutes. So in 20 minutes our defences have to detect the enemy, measure its height, note its course, transmit that information to an operations room where the duty control officer must make his dispositions and decide where to send up aircraft to try and effect the interception.

Then the thing passes to the aircraft pilots and crews. They must get aboard, start up their engine or engines, taxi out, take off and climb. Now, a Hawker Hurricane takes about six and a half minutes to climb to 15,000 feet. Night fighters carrying larger crews, like the Defiant and the Havoc might take longer.

It can be seen therefore that if our interceptors are on their way and have reached the right height for finding the enemy in fifteen minutes, they will have worked almost a miracle of high speed co-ordination. But all the time the enemy is moving at two or three hundred miles an hour.

If it is a Messerschmitt 110, and he has reason to suppose our fighters are in pursuit, he can open the throttle and push up his speed to 350 miles an hour. So all the time his course must be followed and reported in a constant stream of messages, all of which must pass through the operations room and then reach the aircraft crews.

Our defences are better than they were. The bringing down of 33 enemy night raiders on May 10 was the best result yet achieved. But it was the peak of the steadily rising curve of successes, so that it pointed unmistakeably to improvements in methods.

If the enemy raids are gaining force, we shall one day push up still higher the percentage of the raiders shot down by our night fighters. And all the time the anti-aircraft ground defences are being improved. The guns are benefiting from some of the work done by the fighters, and the fighters are benefiting from some of the work done by the guns.

The German air force takes a lot of stopping. It goes on and on like a maniac banging his head against a wall. But it has been shown now that it does stop just as soon as its percentage losses reach a critical figure.

COUNTER ATTACK.

And now, a word on the counter attack. The German defences have been improved just as ours have. Our night bombers have to face even heavier fire and they are met by a greater number of German night fighters.

But we are putting into the field several new types of night bombing aircraft. They began to appear in the official communiqués a month or two ago. The Stirling was the first one to be mentioned, but since then the Avro

Manchester and the Handley Page Halifax have also been mentioned. They are all big machines.

At night in some way they are at disadvantage, for a big machine presents a big target to gunfire and it can't manoeuvre very easily in a fight.

But fortunately, these new machines of ours are not only big but also fast. The speed of all of them is an advance on anything achieved by the Wellingtons and the Whitleys.

When looking at our defence problems, I pointed out how speed in a night bomber increases the difficulties of interception, no matter how fast the fighter may be able to fly. So the speed of our new bombers will to some extent act as a protection for them. It will also enable us to make better use of the periods of darkness.

The pilots of the Bomber Command must fly further than the German pilots in order to attack many of their most important objectives. When an attack on an objective like the armament factories near Berlin is being mounted, the attempt is made to sustain it as long as possible. An aerial bombardment is more than twice as effective when it lasts twice as long. So in mounting these attacks the staff of the Bomber Command try to provide that a constant succession of machines fly over the target for as long a period as possible.

The length of that period is determined partly by the speed of the air-craft. So speed in our night bombers is really more valuable to us than it is to the enemy.

We want to be able to carry these huge weights and to take the largest bombs that are made, but we also want to carry them quickly. The conception that used to be prevalent that night bombing was a slow, lumbering sort of business, and that speed only counted in aerial fighting, in the days is completely out of date.

Night bombing has got to be done by very fast machines. The length during which the attack can be sustained, and the security of the machines taking part, depend on speed. There may be one alternative to speed, namely height.

When the new American Boeing four engined bombers have been in service for a sufficient time, we shall know just how far height can be a substitute for and can supplement speed. Unless there is some entirely unexpected development in the whole trend of the war, there will be some hard pounding by both sides at night in the near future. Britain will be under fire all the time, and so will Germany.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

3—7—41 to 9—7—41.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN WAR.

The wanton attack on RUSSIA has now developed into a titanic struggle, unprecedented in the extent of the battle-line, the numbers engaged and the weight of massed equipment. Every plane, gun and man available has been thrown into the fray by the Nazis, and the Russians, equal believers in a 'total war' have made equally gigantic preparations. Opposed to the Nazi tactics, which believes in offensives initiated by powerful motorised columns and completed by infantry advance and encirclement, the Russians, not content with a mere 'defence in depth' are equally taking the offensive in attack and counter-attack.

The Stalin-Line.—After two weeks of preliminary skirmishes and surprise attacks the Nazi hosts, are closing in upon the Russian ranks all along the Stalin Line, which, differently constructed from the Maginot Line, derives its great strength both from the terrain and the immense fortifications constructed in the last five years. It extends along the River Dneister from CERNAUTI, near the Black Sea, in the south to the Finnish gulf in the North, near LENINGRAD. Here the Nazi hordes are contacting the Red Reserves massed from the hinterland. The latest German communiqués admit a check along the Stalin Line, and state that the Russians have 'demonstrated mastery in the building of defence fortifications into the natural topographical advantages.'

Russian Tactics.—As M. Lozovsky, the Chief of the Russian Information Board has stated, the enemy is given no breathing time. Whenever a unit halts anywhere it is immediately counter-attacked. Russian guerilla bands scour the occupied areas and carry on a ceaseless struggle behind the lines. Following Stalin's orders 'not to leave behind a single pound of grain or a single gallon of petrol but to destroy what could not be taken away" the peasants in the invaded districts burn haystacks and destroy growing wheat, vegetables and fruit. Marshal Timoshenko has also concentrated his greatest strength in the UKRAINE with orders to fight to the bitter end, and if forced to retreat, to

destroy barns, crops and factories. Already ENSOGUTZEITS, the centre of the Saima Valley Power scheme in FINLAND has been destroyed. A desert is being created, for the reception of the Nazi wherever he goes. History is repeating itself. 'Scorched earth' and famine will defeat Hitler as it did Napoleon. Already Goebbells' howls are heard :—'Germans cannot find food for the people of the land they occupy because they have no food in GERMANY itself.'

Advance slowing down.—It is significant that the triumphant jubilations trumpeted by German radio stations in the first week have now died down into a wail and the announcements, at first cryptic have now become short and even silent. To this, several factors have contributed. Firstly, the initial success was due to a dastardly surprise attack, and the 'invasion' was more in the nature of a skirmish on frontier posts. Having advanced some distance, the Nazi tanks have now to be overhauled. Russian railways are of a broader gauge. Guerilla warfare is incessant. Massed Russian troops are constantly encountered in the rear. Added to these are the difficulties of terrain, the vastness, the efficiency, and the modernity of the Red Army and the determination of a great country to fight and win.

Nazi Lies.—The Finns may claim to have taken the AALAND ISLANDS, the Rumanians, to have captured CERNAUTI, the chief city of BUKOVINA and TANNIN, the capital of ESTONIA, the Hungarians to have advanced beyond the Carpathians, and the Germans to have taken RIGA, or Minsk or KIEV but there is much in all this news, which should be taken not only with a grain of salt but rejected as blatant lies. The claim to have captured MURMANSK is one of such, being now contradicted by the Nazis themselves; but more gargantuan is the lie that Russian soldiers before marching shot their political Commissars (the office has been abolished) and that 52,000 soviet soldiers have deserted to the Nazis.

German losses.—On the other hand, the German losses have been colossal, casualties amounting to 600,000 men in the first two weeks, 1,500 planes and 2,500 tanks in the first 8 days, against 600,000 men, 4,500 planes, and 2,000 tanks in the last 22 months.

Russian preparations.—Meanwhile RUSSIA is making every preparation for victory. A Defence Council, with M. Stalin as President has been set up with supreme powers to co-ordinate all war

efforts. British and American help has been sought and obtained, and British technicians have already begun to assist at improving the Russian Air Arm.

British 'Invasion' on the Western Front.—But by far the most powerful help for Russia is Britain's aerial 'invasion' (the word is used for the first time now in an R. A. F. official statement) of Western GERMANY. The Nazis are now preparing the German mind to bow to the inevitable and take the attack.

The present situation at the Eastern Front is roughly as follows :—MURMANSK, in the far north has not been captured, as falsely claimed, and the attack on the Karelian Isthmus has not advanced at all. But south of FINLAND a strong attack has been launched from the Dvina River towards LENINGRAD, which the Russians hold from air and land. Further south again, the Russians are counter-attacking on the banks of the Dnieper and the Beresina. The main German efforts however are concentrated north of the Pripet marshes and across BESSARABIA towards KIEV. According to the latest available Red Army Communiqué (July 9) fierce fighting is raging in the OSTROV, POLOTSK, NOVOGRAD VOLYNSK and BIELTSI regions and the enemy is being repulsed at every point. Never till now has there been such hopeful news as that from the Russian front.

SYRIA.

The capitulation of Vichy.—After a siege lasting 13 days PALMYRA fell in the middle of the week. It is an important oasis city in Central SYRIA, astride the French oil pipe line. With the capture of PALMYRA the back bone of resistance has been broken. Signs there were already of the slackening of French resistance owing to other causes—the impossibility of getting supplies and re-inforcements on account of the British Navy's watch over the East Mediterranean, the hammer blows of the R. A. F., the recent promise of independence to SYRIA and LEBANON, and the realisation by the Vichyites in SYRIA that resistance was against the interests of FRANCE itself.

Since the fall of PALMYRA, Imperial forces—predominantly composed of Indian troops have captured DEIR EZ ZOR on the Euphrates and, EL ATIGUA, EL BOUM and DEMIR KAPOUS on the other side of the River Damour and are now closing on BEIRUT itself. Vichy's Key post on the Lebanese Coast-Homs is also threatened. ALEPPO is continually ombed.

At the beginning of the week DAMASCUS was abandoned by the Vichyites leaving only a day's food behind. Since its occupation BRITAIN has ensured a steady supply, which has brought the prices down. BEIRUT is now in a similar plight. But according to the latest reports the end of the Syrian Campaign is in sight: General Dentz has applied for an armistice and a chapter of the present war, so unpleasant to BRITAIN as against a late ally, and to the Free French as against their own misguided countrymen, will soon be closed.

AMERICA'S SIGNAL AID.

The Arrival of U. S. Naval Forces in Iceland.—Recent American writings and utterances favoured the expectation of some important 'Rooseveltian action' in defence of BRITAIN. Writing in the Magazine *Lock* Col. Knox, the U. S. Naval Secretary stated, 'the time to use our Navy to clear the Atlantic of the German menace is at hand: now is the time to strike'. On Independence Day Wendell Willkie broadcast, 'Before long the great force of the American Navy would be brought into play to ensure delivery of supplies to GREAT BRITAIN.' Now has come the announcement from President Roosevelt in a special message to the Congress that at the invitation of ICELAND'S Premier, and without affecting ICELAND'S independence, in his capacity of Commander-in-Chief he has, in order to safeguard the sea-ways and to forestall the German occupation of strategic outposts in the Atlantic ordered the despatch of U. S. naval forces to ICELAND to co-operate with the British forces now stationed there. This is 'big news, welcome news' indeed, as it means :—

firstly, the guarding of 4,000 miles of the Atlantic and the conversion of this ocean into an Anglo-American Lake;

secondly, not only safe shipment but also assured deliveries of Lease and Lend material as far as ICELAND;

thirdly, the chances of development of what is at present a 'strictly defensive' move into an offensive action, drawing the UNITED STATES inevitably into the war. ICELAND is outside the Western Hemisphere, and within the battle-zone as defined by GERMANY. Already the Nazi growl is heard. 'By sending an American force to the British military zone of occupation on the fringe of the Eastern Hemisphere, says the *Diplomatiche Korrespondenz*,' President Roosevelt felt that

he could materially bring war nearer to his country. In short he has not only tried to provoke GERMANY but also hoped by this means automatically to cause incidents from which the rest follow';

fourthly, with the occupation of ICELAND as a precedent, DAKAR and other West African bases may be held, thus freeing the Atlantic completely of the Nazi pest.

JAPAN.

JAPAN is now presumably on the horns of a dilemma, between her original Axis Pact and her new-fangled Russian Agreement, but it is too soon to say what her next move will be, or if she will move at all. She is an opportunist and an adventurer. The utterances of her statesmen are oracular. Prince Konoye has said, 'Whatever change has come over the world it is my firm belief that JAPAN should go her own way'. The frequent meetings of the Japanese Cabinet, Matsuoka's studied speeches, the veiled threats of the Japanese Press—all portend trouble. JAPAN has recently acquired the right to send her troops to Northern FRENCH-INDO-CHINA; THAI is friendly. JAPAN has recently withdrawn her subjects from MALAYA and the NORTH EAST INDIES. As a bait to JAPAN the Axis Powers, GERMANY and ITALY, and their henchmen, BULGARIA, RUMANIA and SPAIN have severed diplomatic relations with CHINA and recognised the puppet Government at NANKING. German pressure on JAPAN is increasing, and it is evident that the Nazi is doing his best to embroil JAPAN with the U. S. and BRITAIN. JAPAN has recently recalled all her shipping to the Pacific, ostensibly owing to a 'shortage of shipping' and on 'economic considerations'.

What passes understanding, however, is JAPAN'S celebration on July 7 of the Fourth Anniversary of the Sino-Japanese war which has already cost 1,600,000 Japanese and 2,000,000 Chinese lives, and is still of the nature of a stalemate. The celebration was, ironically enough, carried out with great solemnity, with a Memorial Service and a concert to the spirits of the horses and dogs which perished in the war.

On the other hand, the appeal issued on that day by Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek, the Chinese Generalissimo touches the peril of the hour. He gravely pointed out that ASIA was the 'starting point of the fire' and urged the Democracies to regard the Pacific as equally important with the Atlantic.

ABYSSINIA.

The Abyssinian chapter is almost closed. After the evacuation of GHIMBI and the occupation of DENBI, DEBRA, TABOR surrendered with 3,000 Italian and 1,000 African prisoners. General Gazzera, the Supreme Commander of the Italian forces in ABYSSINIA has also capitulated at GULLA SIDAMO with all his men. Only GONDAR remains the last remaining stronghold, with very few Italians. The way to GONDAR is also clear, 'hunting ground', as the Imperial troops would call it.

BRITISH AERIAL ATTACKS.

British aerial attacks on Northwest GERMANY and the occupied regions are now conducted on an invasion 'scale', both day and night. Full advantage is taken of GERMANY'S pre-occupation in RUSSIA. The attacks are designed to strike at the Nazi war potential, which now feeds the western armies. Eventually the aim is to dislocate and nullify German plans to turn westward against BRITAIN in the autumn, should RUSSIA fail. One result already perceptible of the R. A. F's constant hammering of German shipyards and U-boat manufacturing towns, is the 'appreciable' reduction of the Nazi effort in the Battle of the Atlantic. Though it is too much to expect that the R.A.F. will immediately or radically change the course of events on the Eastern Front, a great task would have been accomplished, if by its terrific blows it could divert a part of the *Luftwaffe* now engaged in RUSSIA.

H. M. I. T. TRAVANCORE.

H. M. I. T. Travancore, launched on Monday, is the gift of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore to the Royal Indian Navy. It is a trawler designed also to work as mine-sweeper, or submarine-chaser. It is unique, being the first of its kind to be built in India with Indian materials, but for the engines and the boiler.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Changes in High Command.—Sir Archibald Wavell has been appointed Commander-in-Chief in India, and Sir Claude Auchinluck who has hitherto held this place, has changed places with him and become Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East. The Middle East Command has had hitherto not only to conduct the campaigns in North AFRICA,

ABYSSINIA, GREECE, CRETE, and SYRIA, not only to co-ordinate the work of the Army, the Fleet and the Air Arm, but also to attend to all political matters in the zone. As the work has proved too heavy, it has been decided to relieve the command of the latter duties, and Captain Oliver Lyttelton has been appointed Minister of State and a Member of the War Cabinet, whose function will be to co-ordinate diplomatic and political activities in the Middle East, and be responsible for the British relations with the Free French in SYRIA, and the Emperor of ABYSSINIA, and for the administration of other occupied territory, prisoners, finance and economic warfare.

2. **Negotiated peace**.—Speaking at LEEDS on July 5, Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, knocked the idea of any negotiated peace on the head by declaring 'there is no room on the earth's surface for Hitler's way of life and ours.' He continued :—

'Let me add a warning. We anticipate that Hitler, at the moment he considers opportune during the Russian Campaign will seek to present himself in another of his theatrical rôles. This time his make-up will be that of a man of peace. Internal conditions in Germany will make this false posturing necessary. The head of the German State stands condemned by his own deeds as a man of perjured faith We are not in any circumstances prepared to negotiate with him at any time on any subject, and we shall intensify our war effort until he and all he stands for is utterly destroyed.'

3. Vichy has broken off diplomatic relations with Russia, alleging that Soviet Agents subvert public order and safety. Soviet consulates and banks have been closed. Vichy is no more than a 'maid of all work' for BERLIN. Two Vichy ships have been permitted by BRITAIN, as a matter of high policy, to carry food from AMERICA to N. W. AFRICA for distribution in the French Colonies.

4. 500 Jewish Communists have been mass-executed at JASSY, for alleged firing from their houses on German and Rumanian soldiers.

5. As a result of the recent German occupation, the Greeks are starving. In ATHENS, the number of those fed at the public kitchens has increased to 80,000, and the bread ration has been reduced to $\frac{1}{10}$ of normal.

R. A. F. and Russian Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
30—6—41. (Monday).			
	(By. R. A. F. Planes).		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	MORNING :—		
	The Docks at BREMEN ...	...	...
	Railway yards south of OLDENBURG	...	...
	The Docks and wireless station at the DUTCH island of TERSCHELLING	1 plane. ...	... Damaged.
	One patrol ship south-west of TERSCHELLING.	...	Sunk.
	An enemy convoy off the Island of NORDERNEY.	...	2 ships sunk.
	DAY :—		
	The docks at KIEL ...	...	...
	The enemy base at SYLT ...	2 planes.	...
	EVENING :—		
	Offensive sweep over Northern FRANCE.	...	6 planes.
	The power station at PONT-A-VENDIN	1 plane.	Blown out.
	NIGHT :—		
	DUISBURG, DUSSELDORF and **COLOGNE.**	...	...
	Other indusrtial objectives in the RHUR and the RHINELAND.	... ...	... ...
	SYRIA.		
	The harbour and shipping at BEIRUT.	...	Many ships damaged.
	The Aerodrome at ALEPPO ...	...	Hangars damaged.
	Barracks and stores at PALMYRA ...	...	Set on fire.
	The Aerodrome and aircraft on the ground at BALLBECK.	...	Many twin-engined planes damaged.
	Military buildings at SOUEIDA ...	...	Directly hit.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
30—6—41.	**(Monday.)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The harbour, ships, disembarked troops and enemy sea planes at TRIPOLI	...	Ships damaged. Heavy damage and casualties.
	The Aerodrome aud aircraft dispersed ou the ground at TRIPOLI.	...	5 planes ; 1 troop carrying plane destroyed.
	Protection to British ships off the coast of CYRENAICA.	...	7 planes.
	(By Russian Planes.)		
	EAST GERMANY.		
	German army and aerodromes in the battle front.	...	...
1—7—41.	**(Tuesday).**		
	(By R. A. F. Planes.)		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	MORNING :—		
	Offensive sweeps over North-west GERMANY.	...	...
	A Railway Goods yard and barges in a neighbourhood canal at OLDENBURG.	2 planes.	Large fires started.
	AFTERNOON :—		
	The sea-plane base at BORKUM.	1 plane.	Buildings damaged. 1 plane shot down and many damaged.
	Offensive patrols over Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	EVENING :—		
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	NIGHT :—		
	The three German war ships "SCHARNHORST", "GNEISENAU" and "PRINZ EUGEN" at BREST.	...	Heavily damaged.
	The DOCKS at CHERBOURG.	2 planes.	...
	An Enemy Aerodrome in occupied FRANCE.	No loss.	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
1—7—41. (Tuesday.)—*cont.*			
	SYRIA.		
	Aircraft on the ground at RAYAK.	...	6 planes
	Tanks and motor transport vehicles on the roads in the RAYAK area.	...	2 tanks and 20 motor vehicles destroyed.
	Barracks at the PALMYRA aerodrome.	...	Severely damaged.
	The Fort and Citadel at SOUIEDA.	No loss	Hit.
	RUMANIA. **(By Russian Planes).**		
	The Black seaport of CONSTANZA.	...	A mass of flames.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Merchant ships at TRIPOLI harbour.	...	Many Caught fire.
	BENGHAZI and **GAZALA**	...	Fires started.
2—7—41. (Wednesday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	AFTERNOON :—		
	Enemy aerodrome and aircraft on the ground at MERVILLE.	...	Buildings crashed. Many planes on the ground destroyed.
	A railway junction to the south-east of LILLE.	...	...
	Aerial combat over Northern FRANCE	10 planes.	21 planes.
	EVENING :—		
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	NIGHT :—		
	The Industrial quarters in BREMEN, COLOGNE and DUISBURG.	...	Large fires started. Heavily damaged.
	Docks in CHERBOURG.	...	...
	Oil storage tanks in ROTTERDAM ...	4 planes.	1 plane.
	A supply ship in the CHANNEL ...	...	Sunk.
	SYRIA.		
	VICHY shipping in the harbour of BEIRUT.	...	Many ships hit.
	The Fort and military barracks at SOUEIDA.	...	Directly hit.
	The Aerodrome at NASRULLAH ...	...	...
	The coast road near HOMS ...	...	Vichy transport vehicles destroyed.
	Flying-boats in TRIPOLI harbour ...	...	Many damaged.
	Motor transport vehicles near BEIRUT	No loss.	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
2—7—41.	**(Wednesday.)**—*cont.*		
	(By Russian Planes).		
	GERMAN-occupied POLAND.		
	Enemy tank units in the LUCK Sector ...	...	Crushed.
	An Arsenal in BUCHAREST ...	...	Set on fire.
	Aerial combats over the War Zone ...	...	5 planes.
	(By R. A. F. planes.)		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The harbour at BENGHAZI ...	...	...
	Dispersed air craft on the ground at GAZALA.	...	Many damaged.
	Aerodromes at MARTUBA and other places.	...	Fires started.
	The harbour and shipping at TRIPOLI.	...	...
3—7—41.	**(Thursday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	Railway targets in the HAZEBROUCK-OMER area.	7 planes.	11 planes, Damaged.
	NIGHT :—		
	The KRUPPS Armaments works at ESSEN.	...	Large fires started.
	Industrial objectives in the RUHR	...	...
	SYRIA.		
	Shipping and the harbour at BEIRUT.	...	Fires started.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The harbour at BENGHAZI ...	...	1 ship sunk.
	The Aerodrome at TRIPOLI ...	...	...
	The Axis camp near BENGHAZI ...	...	Tents set on fire.
	The landing ground at GADD EL ASMAR	...	...
	(By Russian planes.)		
	(Eastern War Front).		
	German Mechanised units near the river DUINA, BOBRUISK and TARNOPOL.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
4—7—41. (Friday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	MORNING :—		
	A large factory in the dock area, a goods yard, a railway Junction, a goods train and aircraft on the aerodrome at BREMEN.	...	Pounded Fires and explosions started.
	Barracks and gun positions at the Frisian Island of NORDERNEY.	5 planes.	...
	AFTERNOON :—		
	Offensive sweep over Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	An important power station, a chemical works and the railway Junction at BETHUNE.	...	...
	NIGHT :—		
	A factory and the harbour at CHRISTIANSAND.	...	Fires started.
	Shipping and the quay at HAUGESUND	1 plane.	...
	The Naval Docks and the three German battleships sheltering there at BREST.	... ...	Warships straddled. Fires started.
	The docks and the submarines at LORIENT.	...	2 planes.
	The docks at CHERBOURG ...	...	...
	Industrial targets in the RHINELAND	...	Damaged.
	Railway yards at ABBEVILLE ...	4 planes.	...
	SYRIA.		
	Shipping and the harbour at TRIPOLI	...	...
	Aerodrome buildings at BAALBEO ...	...	Damaged.
	Landing grounds near BAALBEO ...	...	...
	(By Russian planes).		
	RUMANIA.		
	The Black Sea port of CONSTANZA ...	...	...
	SULEINA and **POESTI** ...	...	...
	Enemy machanised troops on all war zones.	27 planes.	43 planes.
	SYRIA.		
	VICHY Barracks and fuel installations at BEIRUT.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
4—7—41.	**(Friday)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Motor transport in CYRENAICA ...	...	Many destroyed. 3 planes.
	The harbour at BENGHAZI ...	...	Many fires started.
	The port at DERNA ...	...	...
	Aerodrome and camp at MECHALE ...	...	Damaged.
5—7—41.	**(Saturday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	AFTERNOON :—		
	The important Steel and Engineering works at LILLE.	...	Fires started everywhere.
	The Railway yard at ABBEVILLE ...	...	Directly hit.
	EVENING :—		
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	2 planes.
	German supply ships off the BELGIAN Coast.	3 planes.	1 ship sunk.
	NIGHT :—		
	Objectives in MUNSTER, BIELEFELD and MAGDEBURG.	...	Fires started, Heavily damaged.
	Select factories in WESTPHALIA. **RHEINE.**	...	...
	The docks at ROTTERDAM and DENHELDER.	...	...
	An aerodrome in Northern FRANCE.	3 planes.	...
	SYRIA.		
	Military buildings and small boats in the harbour at BIETEIDIN.	...	Damaged.
	The Aerodrome and the aircraft on the ground at ALEPPO.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Docks and shipping at BENGHAZI ...	...	...
	A Motor transport park and railway sidings in BENGHAZI.	...	...
	(By the Russian planes).		
	Eastern War Front.		
	Enemy Mechanised units in the War Sector.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
6—7—41. (Sunday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	Heavily damaged.
	Iron works at LILLE.	9 planes.	11 planes.
NIGHT :—			
	Military objectives at MUNSTER ...	...	...
	Industrial objectives in the RUHR and RHINELAND especially at DORTMUND, DUSSELDORF and COLOGNE	...	Damaged.
	The port of EMDEN	...	...
	The docks at ROTTERDAM ...	...	Fires started.
	The Naval base, the harbour and the three German Warships at BREST.	6 planes.	Pounded.
	SYRIA.		
	The Aerodrome at ALEPPO ...	...	9 planes set on fire.
	Barracks, harbour and Railway sidings at BEIRUT.	...	...
	Shipping at BEIRUT ...	...	...

ENEMY Air Raids over BRITAIN, BRITISH Territories and RUSSIA.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R.A.F. and Allied Air losses and results of air bombardment.
1—7—41. (Tuesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	A few places in the West, South-west and South WALES.	...	A slight damage and a few killed.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	2 planes.	No loss.
	BRITISH AFRICA.		
	TRIPOLI ...	1 plane.	...

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R.A.F. and Allied Air losses and results of air bombardment.
2—7—41. (Wednesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	A few places in South-east ENGLAND.	1 plane.	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	CYPRUS ...	...	No damage or casualties.
	RUSSIA.		
	Military positions in White RUSSIA.	...	...
	PALESTINE.		
	HAIFA ...	1 plane.	...
3—7—41. (Thursday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air activity anywhere over BRITAIN		
	EAST RUSSIA.		
	Russian positions on all fronts.	...	...
4—7—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	No air activity at all anywhere.		
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	2 planes.	No damage.
5—7—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	A number of points in the MIDLANDS; South-east and South-west of South WALES.	3 planes.	Slight damage and a few casualties.
6—7—41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	A few places in South-west and East ENGLAND; and East ANGLIA.	... 3 planes.	Slight damage and a few casualties.
	RUSSIA.		
	Russian positions in UKRAINE and East POLAND.	...	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	Malta ...	1 plane.	No damage.
	BRITAIN.		
	Towns in South-ENGLAND and South-east ENGLAND.	...	A few killed, slight damage.

SIDE LIGHTS.

A BIRTHDAY. Like the Bulletin, this 'feature' (?) has been running a year now. I fear it is too much to hope that it won't run another, since both our own Premiér and his unspeakable opposite number in GERMANY have both spoken with such certainty of war in 1942. But I have great hopes that towards the end of another fifty or so of these ramblings, there'll be more than an undercurrent of optimism in them, for if the Russians can hamper and obstruct and kill Germans through the next few months into the winter, the ghastly war-machine that now still tries to petrify humanity will have begun to cave in—as does a submarine or a diving-bell when the pressures surrounding it become too much for its protective shell.

* * * *

HOW SHOULD WE REGARD RUSSIA. Eighteen months ago I was talking 'war' to a Muslim friend of mine from Peshawar (though his home is even further away, in regions where 'the Russian menace' has been family talk for generations). RUSSIA then was an 'ally' of GERMANY'S, and we discussed the prospects of the resurrection of the old Indian scare. "They may try to invade," he said, "but they are a people without a God. How then CAN they succeed?" I have spoken to him again recently. He still dislikes Soviet RUSSIA because of their officially anti-religious policy, but he has no doubt which of those quondam allies is the worse menace to mankind. His prejudice against an atheistic Government is nothing to the contempt and loathing he has for Nazism, and his attitude is doubtless that of every good Muslim in INDIA.

Meanwhile we have been given a perfectly good lead as to how we, who were once anti-atheists, or anti-communists, or anti-Bolsheviks, should regard Hitler's new and fierce enemy in the Prime Minister's broadcast. GREAT BRITAIN and RUSSIA are not Allies; we have no ideological commitments with the Soviets, BUT.........

The German attack on RUSSIA is a repetition on a far larger scale of "the same kind of outrage against every form of signed compact and international faith", says Mr. Churchill, and he goes on to say that :—

> "......the Russian danger is our danger and the danger of the UNITED STATES,"

and that "We have......one single and irrevocable purpose. We are resolved to destroy Hitler and every vestige of the Nazi régime..."

and therefore, "......any man or State who fights against Nazism will have our aid......It follows therefore that we shall give whatever help we can to RUSSIA and the Russian people......"

" We have offered to the Government of Soviet RUSSIA any technical or economic assistance which is in our power and is likely to be of service to them."

" The past with its crimes, its follies and its tragedies flashes away......", because the *Russians are defending their own soil against a hideous onslaught and thus have a community of interests with Britain.*

* * * *

A CAUTION. GERMANY has summoned into the field against her a power which, because of its vastness in size, population and resources, has always greatly impressed Indians. But optimists should remember that Hitler did it deliberately, and though in international affairs, one can say that the Germans are cheats, liars, and bullies, it is nct so easy to maintain that in the material sense they are fools.

We may deduce, and with good reason, that the invasion of RUSSIA bears a favourable aspect for our cause, because it is a change of plan on a large scale—and a change of plan implies that something has gone wrong somewhere with the Axis schemes. What has gone wrong is that the invasion of BRITAIN, the decisive stroke requisite for early Axis Victory, has had to be postponed, perhaps abandoned; it also means that Hitler and GERMANY have been forced to make a patient and dogged enemy of a huge country, in their frantic search for the wherewithal to carry on a long war (such, mark you again, as no German politician, or miliary theorist ever envisaged eighteen months ago).

But it does not necessarily mean that Hitler has bitten off more than he can chew—at least, not at this particular meal, even if what he gulps may prove highly indigestible later.

* * * *

WAIT AND SEE. The newspapers can seldom have had such a vast field for speculation, but unless we are trained military strategists, know the country from the Baltic to the Black Sea like the backs of our hands, and have been able to hear at Hitler's staff-talks precisely what the German plan is, we should surely be most chary of diurnal depression or optimism. It may be pardonable to diagnose German success on a short-term view, with Russian recovery, or rather German decline, from the long-term aspect, *because there are the following reasons for so doing*, but gloom

or elation will be out of place for many a week to come, so obscure are the communiqués and so vague the factors. We recommend the following consideration for digestion.

(i) Warfare of this type is so much better suited to the German than the Russian military machine, that important Russian successes early on can hardly be expected.

(ii) The *Luftwaffe* may not have actual numerical superiority on the spot, but they are probably greatly superior in organization, quality of machines, and training and experience of pilots.

(iii) The element of surprise, and the admitted German flair for administrative organization in rear of their armies in the field, will give them a great advantage over the slowly-mobilizing Russians, who are, as we know, in the throes also of extensive departmental re-organization.

(iv) Despite a surge of national patriotism in RUSSIA the Fifth Column have been hard at work for years, especially in the UKRAINE, and Russian plans for last-minute demolition and sabotage may occasionally be anticipated.

On the other hand :—

(i) The German long-term problem is great—the taking on of a new and vast hostile population, shortage of administrative staff in conquered territories–and the clash of two inimical ideologies among people hitherto rigorously sealed off from each other.

(ii) The transport problem will puzzle them badly—inferior railway systems, change of gauges etc., and the inevitable removal by the Russians of rolling stock.

(iii) If it be true, as it almost certainly is, that what the Germans are after is grain and oil these may largely escape them. The Russians will harvest all they possibly can and remove it, and what they cannot store they will destroy. To raise fresh crops on the enormous scale required will require vast labour concentrations, and short-rationed and antagonistic Russians in such large masses would be extremely difficult to manage. As for the oil, it seems likely that since RUSSIA is the only place from which the Germans can at present get oil, their opponents will take every possible care to see that as little as possible falls into their hands. This would not only starve the whole Axis effort, but would largely immobilise the great German armies within Soviet territories. As for RUSSIA herself, if she had to destroy great stocks of oil, she could still be fed by U. S. A. *via* VLADIVOSTOK.

(iv) The Russian soldier has always been an excellent defensive fighter, hanging on like grim death whatever the foregoing defeats and casualties.

* * * *

SYRIA AND THE FRENCH EMPIRE. The German radio announced on June 9th that they regarded themselves "as passive spectators in a dispute which did not concern them". This was apropos of our advance into SYRIA, and is a pretty bald way of publishing that they have left VICHY and French prestige as a whole, to their fate !

Some people are apt to show impatience at the slowness of the Allied occupation of this vital tract of country. As a matter of fact, more and stouter opposition than we expected has been encountered, but it is being steadily and competently overcome (PALMYRA fell this morning, for instance) and the VICHY forces are falling back everywhere, dispirited, puzzled and hopeless. But the chief advantage of our policy of avoiding bloodshed wherever possible is clearly shown in the gratitude of Syrians themselves. We shall have far less trouble helping to administer (and feed) a free and friendly land than we should have had if we had merely overrun the place by brute force.

Of course the Axis radio are making the most both of our slow progress and also of the stiff fighting which occasionally occurs, to set the French nation against us as being treacherous but feeble aggressors. But though this agitation may be having some success, there are increasing signs of a rising agitation against Darlan, and increasing disillusion about Pétain. According to the Swiss *Basler Nachrichten*, the walls of Darlan's birthplace in NERAC are constantly being scrawled with insulting caricatures of the Admiral, while the Swedish *Handel's Tidininas* of GOTEBURG reports that inscriptions far from flattering about Pétain keep appearing all over FRANCE, while his posters are often found torn down and trampled on.

These things may not yet affect VICHY's policy, but they do show that the Old Men are not universally popular, and a further hopeful sign may be found in Weygand's apparent success in persuading Pétain not to follow up Darlan's avowed policy of mobilising the French North African armies for an attempt to throw General De Gaulle out of AFRICA. It does look as though the VICHY Government is becoming a bit nervous about a reaction against the Darlan-Laval 'co-operation' policy, both in FRANCE, and in the French Empire. Meanwhile, Hitler with his all-engrossing dacoity-schemes against RUSSIA, seems to be leaving his first important victim to writhe and stumble along by herself for a bit.

FIFTH COLUMN STRATEGY.

NORTH AND WEST AFRICA, CASABLANCA AND DAKAR.

by

Michael Foote.

Once before in modern times France was mourning as she is mourning to-day. German troops had marched between shuttered windows, up the Champs Élyseés in Paris to the Arc de Triomphe, and the French nation had been compelled to stand by while Alsace Lorraine was cut from the living body of the Republic. It was the aftermath of the war of 1870. At that time, one man, almost alone proposed that France should seek compensation for her loss in Europe, by the gain of an Empire. His name was Jules Ferrie; he was denounced: "I have lost two daughters" cried one irate Deputy, "and you offer me twenty domestics". It was Jules Ferrie who gained the day. Beneath the shadow of the German victory, French finance, French soldiers, and French explorers, set off to find a new France across the seas. Under Ferrie's direction the French flag was carried to Tunis, to Madagascar, to the Congo, to..............., and to Indo China. At the end of the century when Ferrie himself was assassinated by a shot from an Admiral's revolver, France possessed the second Empire of the world. To-day, it stretches across 4,600,000 square miles and has a population of nearly 65,000,000. Once more beneath the shadow of another German victory, Frenchmen look out towards this vast domain. France has lost so many of her fairest daughters, what hopes can she have from her foster children? What is happening in the French Empire? To-day the answer to that query has become the first most immediate question of the war. Upon the destiny of the French Empire depends the immediate course of hostilities.

One of the biggest battles of the war will be fought in the Eastern Mediterranean. There is however, another sea to which the Germans look even more longingly and hopefully, and where battle has already begun and where battle must go on until this war is finished. This is indeed the biggest battle-field of the whole war. It is the Atlantic Ocean. Germany hopes that treachery in Vichy and the surrender of the French Empire by the Vichy rulers into effective German control will assist her in the Atlantic, just as she hopes for their assistance in the Eastern Mediterranean. She expected Admiral Darlan to give her Syria

That Nazi hope has been forestalled. She still has hopes that Admiral Darlan will give her the huge chunk of territory jutting out into the Atlantic, known as French North and West Africa. In particular, Germany wants the use of the two French African Ports, Dakar and Casablanca.

I need not explain in great detail why the Germans want those two outposts. **Dakar is the nearest point in this hemisphere to the American hemisphere.** The hop from there to South America is just a few miles longer than the hop which German troop carrying air planes actually achieved when they set out one day at dawn just a year ago from air bases in Northern Germany and landed at Narvik in Norway.

Casablanca is a little further removed from your continent than Dakar, but it is even nearer to the essential trade routes of the Atlantic Ocean, which the British Government and the United States Government and the German Government know must be kept open if Britain is to survive unconquered. Long before this war began the French recognized the importance of Casablanca. They realised that in a new war their Mediterranean communications with their North African colonies might be jeopardized. **They therefore built a railway from Tunis to Casablanca, so that they might have access to their African colonies across the Atlantic. Another railway is now being constructed with Hitler's assistance from the Mediterranean ports to Dakar. Casablanca and Dakar, depend upon it, will become famous names in this war, as famous perhaps as Gibraltar and Suez.**

Hitler was well aware of that fact before this war began. He had Agents at work in these French territories, when the Maginot Line was still regarded as a sure defence of the French nation. Since the collapse of France their number has been increasing. An airplane lands at Dakar Airport, the passengers dismount, they have Swiss, Belgian, and Swedish passports, they mix with the refugees in the port, they survey the possibilities of improving the harbour as a submarine base, they keep a close watch on the activities of the United States Consul. Others have entered the Colony under the pretence that they are the German Armistice Commission, sent with the approval of the Vichy Government. In January the number of these Commissioners amounted to 80, and they were stationed at Casablanca, now there are 250 of them, spread all over the Protectorate of Morocco. These tourists are enjoying their holidays, they have plenty of money to spend, they can be seen in the streets of a dozen Moroccan towns. But you could not detect them by their uniform. They are more surely revealed by such small points as these; they will give a shoe cleaner the equivalent of a dollar, where the French give no more than a few cents. Not so many weeks ago, the same sort of thing as this was happening in Damascus. German tourists were a prelude to the projected invasion, and before Syria,

German holiday makers went off on their winter's sport or their Spring vacation in Norway, Holland, Denmark, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Iraq; French North Africa would be a bigger prize than any of these. We may depend upon it that the German tourists in Dakar and Casablanca find plenty to do between swims.

The German Armistice Commissioners are more interested in war than the Armistice. They may be called upon to act very soon. The march of the British and French forces into Syria has forced the issue. Admiral Darlan had agreed with the Germans a system of betrayal on the instalment plan. The first payment was to be Syria—how much further down the list came Casablanca and Dakar we can only guess, but we can be certain that they are there. The crude facts of the situation are known and cannot be denied. These ports could be of the highest assistance to the Germans. Admiral Darlan has made his choice to aid the Germans by every means in his power, **and the fact they have been compelled to fight for Syria, will make both the Germans and their accomplices in Vichy, all the more eager to establish their hold on Dakar and Casablanca before it can be successfully contested.**

Now the Germans like to pretend in their propaganda that they are only interested in Europe. Europe they say, has been united under German rule. What right have the British people, what interest have the American people to interfere in this domain? The facts deny these false pretences. At the Eastern end of the Mediterranean Germany is striving to break a road into Africa —at the Western end she is attempting the same task. Africa is important, not merely for her riches—the West coast of Africa offers that access to the wide oceans where Germany knows as well as we that the biggest battle must be fought. Africa offers the prospect of coming to grips with the enemy across the Atlantic who has sworn in the words of her great President "that there shall be no other end to this conflict but final defeat of Nazism."

LATE NIGHT FINAL AND THE BLITZKRIEG

HOW THE BRITISH PRESS CARRIES ON

NEWSPAPERS PRODUCED WHILE FIRES RAGE AROUND

By

John Fisher.

RECENTLY a small British provincial newspaper, *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, celebrated its 250th anniversary, having survived eight British kings and two queens, and having observed with interest the French Revolution and the American Declaration of Independence, not to speak of the discovery of the steam engine and the talkies.

British newspapers are certainly tough.

But by the end of this war they are going to be a great deal tougher.

Since Hitler marched into Poland in September 1939 over 10,000,000 *a day* have been poked through the letter boxes of British homes, despite the German efforts to bomb the reporters, burn the newspaper offices and tear up the railway lines that distribute the papers. There hasn't been a miss in the daily delivery.

I am not now talking of the crop of sturdy locals such as *Berrow's Worcester Journal*. All you need to deliver these is a van, or may be even a boy on a bicycle. It's the national papers, printed for the most part in London, that John Bull likes to read for his politics, even if he lives in a small market town.

Fleet Street, that rather canyon-like thoroughfare joining the West End theatre district with the City, is the centre of the newspaper world. Five papers in this neighbourhood have between them a circulation of around nine million copies a day.

Such concentration of talent into a few streets of the capital could work effectively only in a country with an exceptionally rapid train service, and compact centres of population at which the papers could be distributed quickly on arrival.

Thus it is that Britain's daily newspapers have what magazines alone have in most other countries—complete national circulation. And they have it despite anything that Hitler has been able to do,

There is one other general war-time problem that the British newspaper is successfully tackling—that of finance. In Britain most daily newspapers sell for 1d. and this is a very good bargain for John Bull. Indeed he gets far more than his pennyworth.

The manager of one London newspaper told me "After allowing for discounts, we reckon we're doing all right if we collect two-thirds of a

penny for each newspaper. This just about pays us for the cost of buying and printing 11,000 miles of paper a day. The reporter's cables, freight charges, news agency services, and all this" he said, pointing to the five floors of his building, "come extra."

The newspapers would, in fact, lose money heavily if it were not for their advertising revenue. Now in peace-time advertisers spend between £ 20 and £ 30 million a year on advertising in newspapers, and an inch in one of their columns normally costs around £ 6. In a pictorial advertisement, £ 6 may mean merely part of an ear or a nose.

Most people thought this would last only as long as peace.

Curiously enough the position since the war has not changed as much as you would think.

For economy reasons the newspaper proprietors have cut down the size of their papers for the most part to six full size pages, but the competition from advertisers for space is such that most newspapers can still make a comfortable profit.

Most of the newspaper features are being kept on in shortened form and John Bull can still read about sport, the theatre, and the latest books, in addition to politics and the war.

What about the reporters who write the stories?

Peace or war, the British reporter has a good position and a great deal of independence. Many of the newsmen, critics and feature writers are University men with degrees. A reporter on a national paper in London has a minimum salary of about £ 8 a week and expenses, including first-class travel on the railways.

He can afford to be entirely objective, with the knowledge that as his reputation grows so will his earnings. He can afford to dine out at restaurants such as the Savoy in order to get stories, and columnists such as Charles Graves of the *Daily Mail*, and Godfrey Winn, of the *Sunday Express*, earn salaries which probably exceed £ 3,000 a year.

So valuable does the Government consider the work of the Press that journalists are exempted from military service at the age of thirty, though, many, who are much older than that, have joined up voluntarily.

However, for those who have not, ordinary conditions of work are often not so very different from military service, even in Britain.

Journalists have taken part in air fights over Norway, have travelled with convoys through the Straits of Dover, and have attended the worst of the *blitzes*. The only precaution that I've heard of was taken by a journalist whose wife sent him a mattress so that he could sleep, if necessary, at the office. He fixed it on the roof of his car—a useful protection against anti-aircraft shell splinters in the "Black out."

The newspapers themselves are no less lively in war-time than they were in peace. Censorship in Fleet Street works smoothly. It is voluntary, and though most editors prefer to get doubtful articles passed at the

Ministry of Information before release they are now experts themselves in deciding what could be of military value to the enemy, what not.

Politically the press is free, as anyone can read, to criticise the Government in no uncertain manner. Many of the most progressive steps of the war with regard to shelters and air raid precautions have been taken as a result of information printed in the newspapers. Members of the Government have often stated that they regard a free press as the quickest method of discovering any errors of administration and so putting them right.

But let's visit a newspaper office and see it at work under war-time conditions. A lot is unchanged. The Editor is still in his shirt sleeves and the lawyers (who spot possible libels), the readers and the reporters work on through the raids. But some familiar desks are empty.

In the office where I worked before the war, the Air Reporter, Victor Ricketts, who broke records in a Britain—Australia flight, is away on duty with the Coastal Command. The News Editor has gone to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, where he releases the latest news on fighters and bombers. The film critic is in the Marines—and so on. Good women reporters such as Hilde Marchant (five feet high and probably the best known of them all) have become almost invaluable.

During raids, the newspapers have their own voluntary spotters on the roof to say if there is imminent danger. Only if the planes are due to come directly overhead does work stop—if then.

During one recent raid, the *Daily Express* in its modernistic but vulnerable black glass building, continued producing the paper although there was one fire opposite the front door, one opposite the side door, and one in the street at the back. This paper has a trained fire-fighting squad of 20, plus 80 volunteers.

On the same night, London war correspondents of the Associated Press worked ankle deep in water, while firemen tried to put out the fire in the same building.

And producing a newspaper is something more than a straight printing job. The British newspaper with its streamer headlines and lavish use of fine screen half-tone photographs, has a far more elaborate display and make-up than most other European papers, and while bombs are falling you may see the make-up chiefs debating the niceties of type to be used in describing the very raid that is taking place.

Moreover, in many cases the editions of the paper are changed two or three times in the night, in order to keep pace with the news.

Little, if any, of the fine newspaper service one used to get in peace-time has been seriously altered.

The main alteration is that the paper goes earlier to press, and dummy "standby" pages are prepared in case stories that are expected do not come to hand in time. Some

papers, one of which is the afternoon *Evening Standard*, have skeleton underground printing plants.

In one respect there is less rush than in peace-time. The papers allow themselves more time to catch the special newspaper trains which haul papers and nothing else. If things go well the paper may get to the station as much as an hour ahead of time.

Recently, the first edition of a Sunday newspaper arrived at Paddington station, the terminus for the West of England, with an hour to spare. It carried a ten-line story of an R. A. F. bombing raid on the invasion ports. A few minutes later the news came through that this raid was the biggest to date since the war began. It was, therefore, worth a lead story on the front page. The paper was just able to print some thousands of extra second edition copies and rush them to Paddington before the train left.

I haven't said enough about the van men who drive the newspapers to the stations in various parts of London. While the linotypes clatter and the presses roar inside the newspaper building, these men wait outside in the street for the word "Go."

Though the vans have no special protection, there is no lack of volunteers for the job.

Finally, in this picture of newspaper production in wartime, there is one more link. The railway. Though some of the trains make slower time, they have never been put out of action even for a night, and waiting to meet the papers at the end of their journey is the "stamper-in", the man who stamps in by hand whatever news has broken while the paper has been on its rail journey.

This stamped-in news is almost always important.

Lately it's been good news, and I prophesy that in the months to come John Bull will look forward to the arrival of his morning newspaper even more eagerly than he did in the last year.

A YEAR OF WAR AGAINST THE AXIS. WHAT "BALANCE-SHEET" SHOWS? HOW TWOFOLD ATTACK HAS BEEN TACKLED? WHAT AIR OFFENSIVE PLUS SEA BLOCKADE CAN DO?

by

Strategicus.

WHEN it was realised that the fall of France did not involve the capitulation of Britain, Germany and Italy arranged a simultaneous attack upon England and the central communications of her empire. After a year of

British resistance to the carefully planned attack of these Powers, it is possible to draw up a balance-sheet.

It is the first principle of warfare that an army should operate from a secure base, and hence Britain had first to make her main base secure.

Hitler had paid her a compliment by allotting some six weeks for her subjugation, and looking at the position dispassionately with no regard to the factor of morale, **must it not have seemed almost impossible that Britain could weather the storm? The flower of her army, withdrawn from Dunkirk after a fight against overwhelming odds, had been compelled to abandon its heavy equipment. In not a single material factor had Britain anything like strength to meet Germany on even terms.**

As compared with Germany, she had no army, hardly any tanks or artillery, and only a small air force. Only on the sea had she any real power, and there, although supreme, it had yet to be seen if she could alone meet the full power of Italy's navy added to that of Germany.

FIRST TEST FROM THE AIR.

The first test came from the air. During August and September a most **bitter and persistent attack on the British isles themselves** was delivered by the *Luftwaffe*, and in a series of battles the R. A. F. decisively defeated an enemy many times their number. Up to the present time, a decision has not been made on invasion.

In the second test, still continuing, Britain has to defeat **the attack upon her communications.** Her military effort overseas, her chance of mobilising her war potential and her very life depend on victory in this struggle. In this, if Germany has not been decisively defeated, she has at least failed to inflict any vital damage. True, Britain has lost ships carrying important war supplies, and has not been able to develop her war effort abroad as fully as might have been possible if her communications had been undisturbed. But the only success the enemy has gained is the delay he has imposed on her.

The attempt to check British armament has not prevented the development of the R. A. F. to a pitch at which, steadily and with increasing force, it destroys the German war potential. While Germany has been content to strike at the British spirit, which all the world now knows to be extremely tough, Britain has concentrated her attack upon German factories, which are no better able to stand explosive bombs than English houses, and are much more valuable in the military sense.

Germany has not been able to weaken the effect of the British blockade, and between the two attacks she must soon be short of wheat, fats and oil

and many minerals. **In the end our air attack reinforcing the sea blockade is certain to bring the enemy to a condition in which we will be ripe for a successful land attack.** It is Hitler who insists that the blockade defeated Germany in the Great War, and it can be admitted that it prepared the way for a decisive military attack. With an air offensive it will do so again.

At sea Britain has sunk the *Bismarck*, and has immobilised with serious damage the *Scharnhorst* and the *Gneisenau*, a second pocket battleship and the *Prinz Eugen*. At Taranto and Matapan she has crippled the Italian navy. Her losses include the *Hood* and a number of cruisers and destroyers in the narrow waters of the eastern Mediterranean, but in these types of vessels she has inflicted much more damage on the enemy. **The balance is overwhelmingly in her favour.**

She has also destroyed two great Italian armies with a total strength of about 400,000 men. These victories have never been fully appreciated simply because they were so decisive. But remember that each of these armies had a commander of repute, was amply supplied with every modern equipment, and had months to prepare. At first they outnumbered the British armies under Gen. Wavell by ten to one, and they had at least 20 times as many guns.

Of course, fighting against such numerical odds, Britain has suffered several setbacks. She had to evacuate Greece and Crete, but there is now positive evidence that, by her intervention there, Germany was prevented from assisting Rashid Ali in Iraq. As a consequence, Germany's attempt to seize power in Iraq collapsed, and with that fact **the situation in the Near East has been revolutionised**.

If the Iraq revolt had not been crushed, Gen Wavell could not safely have entered Syria, and could not possibly have launched a column from Iraq to assist the Syrian advance. Only in Libya was the retreat without advantage, but it was recognised from the first that if an expedition were sent to Greece Gen. Wavell would risk so weakening his army that he might lay himself open to a surprise stroke.

He was compelled to withdraw his advanced elements, but note that the enemy, who advanced to the Egyptian frontier and has once crossed it, is now where he was ten weeks ago.

Gen. Wavell has even been able to deliver a strong exploratory attack upon the German positions, and in a four days' battle to inflict heavy losses and take many German prisoners. At the same time, the occupation of Syria is proceeding, thought at a much slower pace than would be the case if this were a purely military operation.

Such is the balance-sheet as between Britain and the Axis for a year during which Britain has fought alone. It is difficult for the British not to be encouraged by it.

PRELIMINARIES OF THE RUSSO-GERMAN WAR IN A NUTSHELL.

UNPARALLELED TREACHERY.

The steadily growing tension between Germany and Russia reached breaking point on Sunday June 22, when the rumours which had been flooding Europe received a bloody quietus.

In the early morning of Sunday German troops attacked the Russians along the whole vast front from the Baltic to the Black Sea, without warning and without a declaration of war, and two hours before the German ambassador in Moscow presented the German crime sheet in a diplomatic envelope.

THE GERMAN LAMB.

All the formalities on both sides were observed. M. Molotov over the Moscow radio denounced (truly) the German attack as an act of "unparalleled treachery". Herr von Ribbentrop assumed his well worn and deeply-stained suit of sheep's clothing and accused the Russian wolf of menacing the timid Nazi lamb, and constantly trying to snip its delicate snowlike wool. In particular, forgetful of his refusal to help Finland and stoppage of help sent to her by then neutral Italy, he pretended concern at Russian action in the Finnish War. The usual documents were discovered, this time at Belgrade, which proved that Russia had engineered a diabolical plot against the peace-loving, and too too simple, Fuehrer. He mendaciously alleged that the Russians last November pressed Germany to assist them in forcing Turkey to yield the control of the Dardanelles.

THE DOG RETURNS.

Hitler himself was more direct. He took down his own *Mein Kampf* from the topmost shelf of Berchtesgaden where it has rested unregarded for nearly two years, turned to chapter xiv of volume II, which deals with Russia, and proceeded from where he had left off. "It should not be forgotten that the present rulers of Russia are bloodstained criminals......The international Jew is to-day the absolute master of Russia......We cannot cast out the devil through Beelzebub"—found their natural sequence in—"Bolshevism is opposed to National Socialism in deadly enmity......Bolshevist Moscow desired to stab National Socialist Germany in the back......the deadly dangers of Bolshevism".

Hitler has given a new twist to his own statement; "an alliance which is not made for the purpose of waging war has no meaning and no value". The wars to which alliances are preparatory are not against third parties, but against the ally herself.

WHY HITLER HASTENED.

The sudden attack upon Russia is a natural result of Hitler's realisation that he cannot win quickly. For a long war he requires wheat from the Ukraine to feed his European helots just enough to be able to work for him, and oil from the Caucasus to feed his machines for operations against Britain reinforced by America. The urgency of an increased wheat supply has been accentuated by the poor harvest prospects in Europe, whereas prospects in the Ukraine are reported to be plentiful. The urgency of a large oil supply is intensified by his failure to control Iraq and the Middle East, and by the increasing weight of the British air attack. Hitler evidently thinks an immediate attack on Britain hopeless, and in this he has perhaps been influenced by his losses in taking Crete in spite of the absence of any air support for the defence. With Russian supplies at his back, Hitler hopes to laugh at the blockade and to match plane for plane, gun for gun and ton for ton of munitions with Britain and America.

THE GERMAN TASK.

In this momentous campaign, the Germans have to overrun a vast country with 200,000,000 inhabitants and to defeat a large army, with its own supply of munitions, and fortified by a sense of fighting for their very existence. They will then have to hold down this great people, well versed in sabotage and masters of propaganda. They can only get what they want by taking from the Russians what they themselves need, and they must therefore reckon with one more discontented people, though Russian Quislings quizzle never so cleverly. They must then reorganise Russian communications, and in particular adapt the Russian railways to the German and standard European gauge.

THE RIVAL FORCES.

The Germans are said to have 140 divisions on the Russian front, and the Russians about 160. The dry plains of Russia are very suitable for the German speciality of mechanised warfare. German communications are much better than the Russian. On the other hand Russia has been strengthening its defences for many years, and under Marshal Timoshenko, has made great efforts to profit by the lessons of the Finnish war. The army is extensively mechanised, and the centres of war production in the Ural mountains are safe from German air attack. The Air Force is second only to the German in size, and the Russians claim that they have several new and secret types of planes. The Russian navy is weak in heavy ships, but has many modern destroyers and submarines which can be moved from the Baltic to the Black Sea along the Russian rivers and canals.

RUSSIAN MORALE.

Since Russia produces all her own war material, and has maintained great secrecy about all her defence measures, it is impossible to estimate her exact state of efficiency, and whether she has remedied her old weakness, lack of organisation. But Sir Bernard Pares, the authority on Russia, has commented upon the increased self-reliance of the average Russian, the result of greatly extended education. To succeed in the first stage only, Hitler must overrun Russia before the end of the summer.

ONE MORE TREATY TORN UP.

" The fact of forming an alliance with Russia " wrote Hitler in Mein Kampf, " would be the signal for a new war. And the result of that war would be the end of Germany."

On August 24, 1939, Hitler gave the signal in the Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact for the war he had so long prepared. The first part of his prophecy came true.

On June 22, 1941, by tearing up one more treaty and attacking Russia, Hitler betrayed his growing fear that the second part of the prophecy was approaching— the end of Germany.

THEN AND NOW.

Nearly a year ago, on July 19, 1940, Hitler made what he chose to call his final offer to Britain. Holland and Belgium were overrun, France crushed and split. Bases in Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Flanders and France gave Germany overwhelming advantages for a final onslaught on the British Isles. In North Africa the Italian threat to Suez was developing.

Hitler claimed to speak " as a victor, in the name of reason." He boasted of his conquests and his strength. "I see no reason," he declared, " why this war must go on." He also said this. " *Among the hopes of English statesmen is a belief in a possible new alienation between Germany and Russia. German-Russian relations have been finally settled. Any hope that new German-Russian tension may intervene is infantile.........British hopes of relieving the pressure on herself by bringing about a new European crisis are illusory as far as Germany and Russia are concerned.*"

THE TURNING POINT.

Hitler's bluff was called. Britain rejected his appeasement offer with contempt, and faced the worst that Goering's *Luftwaffe* could do.

From their new bases the German bombers came over in scores and hundreds, and in scores and hundreds they were shot out of the daylight sky. An invasion was mounted and destroyed before it could cross the Channel. Then the bombers came by night to rain fire and destruction on thickly populated areas. Calm, courage and efficiency in defence measures defeated this attempt also.

From this decisive failure have resulted all Germany's subsequent operations, military and diplomatic. If Hitler could have broken Britain in her own stronghold, not one of the alternatives he has tried in the last nine months would have been necessary.

The failure of his tool, Rashid Ali, in Iraq; the check to German forces in North Africa; the demonstration of fierce British resistance in Crete; the resolute action against Vichy in Syria; Turkish determination to yield no military concessions—all these Nazi setbacks, and behind them the growing might of Britain and the U. S. A. have forced on Hitler the nightmare of a long war.

He has been left with only two alternatives—invasion of Britain or invasion of Russia. From invasion of Britain he shrinks, and for good reasons. If he succeeds against Russia, Churchill warns us, he must turn at last and face his fate in the West. The next few weeks will show the size of that "if."

NAZIS EAT THEIR WORDS.

Hitler has not only offered one more demonstration, on a monstrous scale, that a Nazi promise is a Nazi threat. He has demolished at one stroke the assiduous German propaganda of the last 22 months. Even the most credulous will henceforth never believe a Nazi.

Hitler's Declaration.

"After grave sorrows and many months of silence, I am in a position to speak openly........ The consequences of the German-Russian treaty were **terribly harsh**."

Previous Nazi Statements.

"Germany and Russia have embarked on a policy which takes into account the vital interests of each party and eliminates all possibility of friction arising between them. Their policy is based on co-operation and both countries are certain that it serves the interests of their prosperity and security. That attitude is fundamental, and not merely a matter of temporary adaptation."

Deutsches Diplomatisches Correspondenz, Nov. 13, 1940.

"Russia's share in Poland bore no relation to the achievements of German arms."

"Then followed a further attack in the Russian operations against Finland and the Baltic States. That step could only have been aimed at Germany."

"Bolshevism is opposed to National Socialism in deadly enmity. Bolshevist Moscow desired to stab National Socialist Germany in the back while she was engaged in a struggle for existence......... The German people are fully aware that they are called upon not only to defend their native land but to save the entire civilized world from the deadly dangers of Bolshevism."

"The German and Soviet Governments consider the aforementioned settlement (of boundaries in Poland) as a sure basis for the increase of the friendly relations between their two peoples."

Article 4 of German-Russian Treaty, Sept. 29, 1939.

"The frontiers in Poland were fixed in complete agreement before the Russians crossed the Polish frontier."

German broadcast, Sept. 24, 1939.

"Understanding is shown here for the Soviet need of a secure outlet to the Baltic."

German News Agency, Nov. 29, 1939.

"It is only a small price to pay, in the struggle to break the hegemony of Britain, that the great Russian Empire shall receive access to the ice free ports in such countries as belong to Russia's sphere of influence."

Danziger Vorposten, Jan. 23 1940.

"Russia has taken the position in Europe which is to-day her due."

National Zeitung, Mar. 13, 1940.

"The war must be carried on by absolutely Russian — Bolshevist methods...... The war-time economic reconstruction is really a Communist kind of organisation......... From the standpoint of Communist doctrine the war is really a revolutionary war."

Dr. Ley, Nazi Labour Front Leader, reported Nov. 7, 1939.

CHURCHILL'S DECLARATION, 22-6-41.

" We have but one aim and one single irrevocable purpose. We are resolved to destroy Hitler and every vestige of the Nazi régime. From this nothing will turn us. Nothing. We will never parley. We will never negotiate with Hitler or any of his gang.

The German attack on Russia is a vaster repetition of " the same kind of outrage against every form of signed compact and international faith " as has been seen in previous Axis aggressions. **" It is not too much to say that the lives and happiness of a thousand million additional human beings are menaced with brutal Nazi violence."**

" Any man or State who fights against Nazism will have our aid. Any man or State who marches with Hitler is our foe......... We have offered to the Government of Soviet Russia any technical or economic assistance which is in our power and which is likely to be of service to them......... **We shall bomb Germany by day as well as by night in ever-increasing measure."**

The Nazi régime is " devoid of all theme and principle except appetite and racial domination......... **This is no class war......... If Hitler imagines that his attack on Soviet Russia will cause the slightest division of aims or slackening of effort in the great democracies who are resolved upon his doom, he is woefully mistaken."**

MADRAS AIR SQUADRONS.

FINE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

The following cable has been received from London:

The following despatch, one of a series of despatches dealing with the work of the six fighter Squadrons of the Royal Air Force named after various parts of India, describes the work of the Madras Spitfire and Hurricane Squadrons.

Stationed for many months in 1940 in the English west country, the pilots of the Madras Squadron of Spitfires kept a constant watch on convoys passing along the Cornish, Devon, Dorset and Hampshire coasts. The Squadron has earned a high reputation for its patrols in protection of British and allied shipping.

In September 1940, it was ordered to the south-east to reinforce the defences of London. In their first flight in their new theatre of war the Spitfires shot down 13 enemy aircraft in four days and brought their "London Defence" total to 30.

The Squadron then went back to the west country, where on November 29, 1940, they carried out one of their outstanding exploits—protecting the destroyer *Javelin* from an air attack.

For several hours the Spitfires fought off a series of attacks by relays of German bombers on the partially disabled destroyer after she had been torpedoed in a naval action in the Channel. When the *Javelin* had been safely escorted to port, the fighters had accounted for three German bombers destroyed and one damaged. Their own casualties were nil.

On September 15, 1940, when a record number of 185 raiders were destroyed, this Squadron's 'bag' was four ME-110s, and one ME-109 shot down in a battle off the south coast.

To-date the Squadron has won three D. F. Cs. and Bar, two D. F. Ms. and one B. E. M. One of the D. F. Ms. was awarded to a Sergeant, who has participated in nearly every operational patrol carried out by his Squadron. He has six enemy aircraft to his credit. One of the pilot officers of the Squadron, who has secured the D.F.C. and Bar, has personally destroyed a total of 14 hostile aircraft. On one occasion he dived vertically across a strong protective formation of fighters and attacked two four-engined enemy bombers.

Altogether the Madras Spitfire Squadron has already a fine record, well meriting its inclusion in the three squadrons selected to perpetuate the splendid contribution made by Madras to the Empire war effort.

On a clear morning in October 1939, a watcher on the Kent Coast saw a Dornier-17 hurtle out of the sky leaving a spiral trial of smoke as it cork-screwed into the sea. Three Hurricanes circled round the spot, then flew off to their base to report the first enemy aircraft shot down in the Straits of Dover.

The pilots were members of the Madras Hurricane Squadron. Flying high over the sea, they had sighted an enemy plane, which was apparently on a reconnaissance flight, and attacking it in turn, sent it crashing into the water.

Since this first victory, the Squadron has accounted for another 65 enemy machines over France in defence of Britain.

When Hitler invaded the Low countries, the Squadron was stationed in France—a unit of an air component. In ten days the pilots shot down at least 25 German aircraft and seriously damaged many more. Their last day before coming home got them ten.

Back in England, the Squadron defended part of the north-east coast. When the big *blitz* started in August, it was ordered south to reinforce the front-line defences. On August 15, it shot down five HE-111s. which were attacking a Kent aerodrome. The following day in five patrols it accounted for five ME-109s. and one ME-115 over Kent.

One of the Squadron's greatest achievements was in late September when nine Hurricanes saved Liverpool from a daylight bombing attack. They intercepted the bombers off St. David's Head, and as soon as our fighters attacked the enemy turned back minus one of their number.

The pilots have taken part in recent actions against German night raiders. One night in March, a Canadian Flight Lieutenant shot down a JU-88 over South Wales.

The members of the Squadron have already won four D.F.Cs. and ten D.F.Ms. One of the D.F.Cs. was awarded to a Flight Lieutenant, who showed great ability as the leader of his Squadron on many offensive patrols. On one occasion, while attacking a ME-109 he was himself attacked by six Heinkel 113s. He turned on the Heinkels, destroying one and severely damaging a second before being compelled to break off the engagement owing to a shortage of ammunition. The following day, while leading a section of his Squadron, he sighted and attacked a large formation of Heinkel-111s. and shot one down in flames.

Another member of the Squadron, a Pilot Officer, shot down five enemy aircraft during recent operations. During one of these, he was in the air for eight hours. He too was awarded a D.F.C.

INDIA'S PERIL
WHAT NAZI DOMINATION WOULD MEAN
NEED FOR UNITED EFFORT
LESSONS OF EUROPEAN DISSENSIONS

by

Field Marshal Lord Birdwood.

THE world has witnessed two of the most tragic aspects of recent events in Europe. The first is the tardiness with which nation after nation and country after country has awakened to the realisation that in these days of air warfare and fast-moving mechanised columns mere geographical

remoteness from the scene of conflict no longer spells territorial security or immunity from embroilment in war. Secondly, there is the disastrous gullibility of politicians and pressmen in crediting the statements of Nazi propagandists with even a reasonable degree of sincerity or truth.

To these a third might well be added: the apparent inability of one country to profit by the misfortunes of another to the extent of saying "This may also be the fate in store for ourselves unless we take prompt and effective steps to repel the menace."

In Europe nation after nation has been caught napping by the subtle and sinister lightning strokes of Nazi strategy. Will Asia—and particularly India—fall a victim to the same folly?

The policy of waiting till the enemy is at the gate, before taking measures of defence, has never at any time in the history of war been sound strategy. With the ever-quickening tempo of warfare, the counsel of "wait and see" daily becomes less and less to be commended. To-day, a wise nation is that which recognises an emergency afar off, and arms against the Nazi peril while its advancing spearhead is still a few hundred miles distant, and there yet remains time to man the ramparts and organise to the last degree the necessary machinery of defence.

To the people of India, and particularly the unlettered millions who have never left the shores of their own country, the attempt of Nazi forces to penetrate Iraq may still seem to be a distant and, therefore, a by no means pressing menace.

To such, Iraq is a far off land comfortably separated from India by the convenient buffer states of Iran and Afghanistan. But these arguments, none too valid even in bygone years, are nothing short of disastrous and foolhardy to-day. It would be the greatest tragedy of all if those appointed and selected to guide India's destiny through these difficult times were to regard the eastward trend of Nazi imperialism with eyes clouded either by indifference or by prejudice.

It is clear enough to the most uncritical observer that, had the democratic and freedom-loving nations of Europe seen far enough ahead to band themselves together, and pool their defence resources against the visibly growing menace of Hitlerism, the advance of the Nazi hordes could have been checked and hurled back.

It is a favourite device of Nazi diplomacy to profit by the mutual and domestic dissensions of its intended victims, and by a subtle policy of exacerbation to take advantage of the existing cleavages. It can be likened to

a pest which burrows remorselessly at the heart of an apple, and lays therein the eggs of corruption which will eventually weaken and destroy all the fruit in the orchard.

Will India profit by the lessons of European disunity and vacillation? Or will she too ignore, till too late, the eternal and inescapable truth of that well-tried proverb "United we stand—divided we fall?"

The Germany of to-day stands shamed and discredited in the eyes of all honourable god-fearing men. Her word can no longer be trusted, for she openly employs falsehood and treason among her primary war weapons. She makes pacts and promises with no intention of keeping them, but simply to deceive her victims and put them off their guard. She despises and persecutes all religions, save the ludicrous man-made myth of the pre-destined supremacy of the Teuton race: the megalomaniac heresy of the Herrenvolk. The Nazi ideology is, as we say in India, both *beiman* and *bedir* (dishonest and irreligious) in the most literal sense of those terms.

The Arab world, wise after years of experience of Italian colonisation in North Africa, is no longer deceived by the insincere protestations of the Axis Powers in regard to the latter's pretended sympathy with the aspirations and susceptibilities of Islam. The Arabs distrust, and with reason, the affected concern of Nazi Germany for the prosperity and well-being of the Moslem faith and Moslem peoples.

With the example of persecuted European Christianity before their eyes, they realise that submission to the political domination of pagan Nazism involves, quite apart from material and commercial adversity, the great spiritual evil of religious oppression.

Who can believe, for instance, that if the Nazi forces succeed in gaining a foothold in Iraq, they will respect the sanctity of such holy places as the Najf Karbela or Kaziman? Still more to the point, who can believe that if India fell to Nazi tyrants, the conquerors would continue for a day or an hour longer than it suited their own fell purposes the traditional British policy of full tolerance and respect for the religious and holy places of the Hindu and Mohammedan, and the sanctity of this principle is best illustrated by the well-known passage from the holy Koran "Every one is free to enjoy his own religion."

The perils now confronting the religious, social and economic lives of the people of India are fortunately fully recognised by many of her leading men. The Indian war effort has been superb and increases in intensity day by day. The magnificent exploits of Indian units in North Africa and elsewhere have aroused the admiration and enthusiasm of the world, and as the "Father of the

Indian Army," my heart has been gladdened and uplifted by those splendid acts of valour and efficiency. The princes of India, as ever, have been prodigal in their unstinted contributions of men and money, and have shown themselves fully awake to the urgency of situation.

Only a few days ago I received a letter from a powerful Mohammedan ruler whom I am proud to number among my firmest friends.

"I am leaving very shortly for a trip overseas," he writes, "in an attempt to do my little bit in serving our beloved King Emperor and Empire. It is my sincere prayer that Allah may have mercy on His people, and that this terrible conflict may end soon and thus bring peace and contentment again, making the world safe and fit to live in. We are all doing our level best to keep up the old traditions in doing our little bit towards the fulfilment of the common aim—the destruction of the bully."

That I think is the true spirit of India. The bully must be destroyed, and his false and cruel presumptuous creed stamped out, if the world is again to become safe and fit to live in. And the time to set about this high and noble task is now! India, if she is to survive with her great religious and cultural institutions intact, must choose at this moment whether she will avail herself of the lessons so clearly and tragically demonstrated by the results of short-sightedness and petty political dissensions in Europe; or whether neglecting these lessons and the urgent warning of Iraq, she too will fritter away her chances of survival and resign herself to a new era of suffering and servitude.

There is no middle course.

THE RETORT COURTEOUS.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone, whose Open Letter we published a few weeks ago, has issued a reasoned and dignified reply to the criticisms it evoked and particularly that of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. She says:— 'Reports have reached me of several comments on my letter to Indian friends, including one from Sir Rabindranath Tagore. Writing as he says from a sick bed, I think he cannot fully have read my letter. Otherwise he could not have completely ignored its main purpose, and have merely repeated, as my other hostile critics do, the old charges against British Rule, which I was not concerned to defend. My purpose was simply to ask Indians who care as I do, for the cause of Indian progress, to consider whether the non-co-operation movement is really helping that cause. **On March 28, 1939, Pandit Nehru wrote, " India's freedom**

will not be worth many days purchase if Fascism or Nazism dominates the world.'' Is that less true to-day; and what stands now between the world and its domination by Nazi tyranny but Britain and her Allies? Whatever Britain's errors and imperfections, is it not better for India and the world that we should win the war rather than Hitler? Can the non-co-operators deny that, whatever the intention behind their movement, help to Hitler is its actual result? By evading the issue in their comments on my letter my critics show, I think, that they find these questions unanswerable.'

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

[*A Gentleman of Pudukkottai has just written us the following letter. As we say above, " That's the Spirit!" Ed.*]

GENTLEMEN,

I have been longing for a long time to do my humble bit of service in this great war effort you are all so successfully making. Except occasional contribution of selection of some striking utterances on this war and counteracting the prevailing wrong view among many of our citizens—that they are supinely indifferent who wins, I have not done my best yet.

Now I desire to co-operate with you in this war propaganda.

If my humble services are needed in that direction,—you may freely draw upon them—at any moment. My humble view is that

(1) war effort is not adequate in India;

(2) the Congress is wrong in its policy of non-co-operation when the worst enemy of Freedom, Liberty, Democracy and all our precious inheritance—the greatest enemy of mankind—is roaring and raging and felling the tree of life planted in the Christian civilization.

I do not want to be lengthy and tire your patience, but beg to remain your most yhumble servant.

COSMOPOLITANA.

1. " Oil is Hitler's economic soft spot and he is not happy about his future supplies."

(*Dr. Hugh Dalton, Minister of Economic Warfare, Cardiff, 28th June, 1941*).

2. "We shall never parley, we shall never negotiate with Hitler or any of his gang."

(*Mr. Churchill, broadcasting on June 22*).

3. "Indian India has been and is determined to strain every nerve to stand by Britain."

(*Sir Akbar Hydari, addressing the States Ministers' meeting in Bombay, June 25*).

4. "I wish to say that I would like to say the thing that I am not permitted to say to-day, but I am sorry that I am not in a position to do so."

(*Mr. Koishi, Japanese Information Board Deputy Spokesman, rejecting questions at a Tokyo Press Conference on the new international situation, as reported in a Japanese broadcast in English, June 24*).

5. "It is a crime against the Creator to train the dark races for intellectual careers."

(*Hitler, Mein Kampf*).

6. "Why babble about brutality and be indignant about tortures? The masses want that. They need something that will give them a thrill of horror."

(*Hitler to Hermann Rauschnigg—'Hitler Speakes', p. 89*).

7. "It is a Nazi trick.........Adolf, the devious is trying to conquer by guile. Hitler, raucous and bellowing is less dangerous than Hitler slobbering a poisonous syrup."

(*Col. Frank Knox in an article in Look—June 30*).

8. "One hears arguments and demands that India's fighting forces should be concentrated in India so as to be able to defend her as and when the enemy comes knocking at her gates. This is the surest way to court defeat and disaster, utter and complete. All history proves it. The enemy must be kept at a distance and he must be attacked wherever he is. The further from India we can send our troops, our ships, our aircraft the more secure will we be. The best defence is attack, and attack, we must, we will."

(*H. E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck—Press Note of July 2*).

9. "Our war for the freedom of our Fatherland is merged into the struggle of the peoples of Europe and America for their independence and freedom. It is an united front of the peoples who stand for freedom against the threat of enslavement by Hitler's Fascist armies."

(*M. Stalin—July 3*).

10. "Compared with the Nazi propaganda machine, the British effort may seem puny and half-hearted, but we have powerful allies in truth and fair dealing to which the psycholcgy of fear is no match."

(*Sir John Anderson—July 3*).

11. "I tell the American people solemnly that the United States will never survive as a happy and prosperous oasis of liberty in the midst of a desert of dictatorship."

(*President Roosevelt—July 4*).

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period June 23—29, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

EXPLAINING IT AWAY.

Crocodile tears dripped on to the microphone as Lord Haw Haw, on June 29, added his little piece to the quires of equivocation that have been read out from Berlin explaining away the war with Russia.

"It was a heavy imposition and a bitter ordeal", sniffed Haw Haw, "which the Fuehrer took upon himself when he tried to conciliate the Bolshevik racketeers of the Kremlin." But "the Fuehrer deemed it his duty to work for peace with the Russian State.' Unfortunately the Fuehrer failed (for the first time, apparently). "Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Esthonia and Rumania suffered Red invasion.........".

In the meantime, of course the Fuehrer, posing as the dove of peace, had set about the Nazi invasions of Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Greece and Yugoslavia—not to mention the "peaceful penetration" of Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

It was because he was so busy with his own invasion programme that Hitler waited until mid-summer 1941 before he allowed his "conscience" to make itself heard and oblige him to punish the Russian "aggressor." All the world knows (including Stalin) that Hitler followed an appeasement policy in the East so that he could be free to move in the West and South. **Russia never ceased to be included in his list of potential victims.**

FOREIGN LEGIONS.

Berlin (June 29) reports that "more than 18,000 Spanish volunteers have signed on already for the struggle against Bolshevism". We are told that recruiting offices for volunteers have been opened in Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, and even "Independent Croatia". In addition Hitler has bullied the Governments of Finland, Rumania, Slovakia and Hungary into declaring war on Russia.

Yet Berlin never loses an opportunity of baiting Britain with the taunt that she gets "foreign legions" to do her fighting for her and of proclaiming that the German army is so powerful that it can manage any campaign single-handed.

HALF THE STORY.

It is now becoming a habit of the Germans to announce that a topical talk is to be broadcast at a certain time and then to play music instead. Apparently, the Nazis are finding it more and more difficult to give a credulous explanation of Hitler's right-about-face on the Russian question. **Or is it because Goebbels, lie-factory has been appearing in the bomb-sights of R. A. F. raiders over Berlin recently ?**

CHURCHILL TALKS TOO MUCH!

"Mr. Churchill's outspokenness," says Rome (June 28), "is well known to everyone, as also is his mania for revealing events, even when he knows that it would be more prudent to keep quiet". **But only a few days before both Berlin and Rome were making great play of Churchill's order that the war at sea should be discussed in a secret session of Parliament and offering their condolences to the British public, who were being kept in the dark about the true situation.**

"MASTERS OF THE DAYLIGHT SKIES".

Dr. Goebbels is working overtime, trying to cover up the *Luftwaffe's* abject failure to interfere with the R. A. F.'s mounting daylight offensive against Nazi positions in Northern France.

His bulletin on June 23, for instance says : "On June 21 a few British bombers approached the French coast with a strong fighter escort. In a series

of fierce aerial combats, German fighters shot down 26 British aircraft, while two further enemy machines were accounted for by German anti-aircraft guns and naval artillery".

But this is just a clumsy juggling act with the British *communiqué*, which shows that **it was the Germans who lost 28 fighters that day—26 of them over French territory and two more near the English coast**; British daylight losses were one bomber and three fighters, one of the pilots being saved.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

AXIS AND THE MUSLIMS.

Never tired of parading their much-advertised friendship for Muslim countries, the Nazis in their Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of June 27 and 28 announced with great satisfaction that the Arabs regard the British as the worst enemy of the Muslims. In spite of the Nazis' lying propaganda, the Muslims of Alexandria and Damascus (who have been ruthlessly bombarded by these self-styled friends) have now seen for themselves what Nazi friendship means. The Egyptian paper *Al Masri*, while expressing gratification at the British Government's donation to Egypt of £ 1,000,000 for A. R. P., contrasts this generous gesture with "the fact that the Germans and Italians at the same time gave their friends, the Egyptian Muslims, the gift of death, destruction, ruin and bereavement." And as for Italy, Marshal Graziani, describing how he colonised Libya for his Duce, writes in his book *Roman Peace in Libya*; "To the population, the mobile police must be the bloodhounds who tear the rebels with their teeth; they must destroy them from day to day, man by man."

EXPLOITING RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT.

After having a pact with Russia for nearly two years and observing it just as long as it suited the German Fuehrer, the Nazis' Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of June 24 return to the theme that the Germans are fighting a holy war to rescue Europe from Bolshevism. This pious claim comes ill from the Nazis who have persecuted all Christian Sects which dared

to oppose the Nazi paganism. **For example, the late Pope Pius XI was obliged to admit that the Church in Germany was being persecuted to an extent that was "terrifying, grievous and lamentable in its far-reaching effects."** And this prosecution is a deliberate violation of the Concordat with the Holy See, which the Nazis respect as little as they do their other "solemn pacts and pledges."

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND RUSSIA.

"All the European Countries," says Berlin's Hindustani broadcast, "have started taking part in the war against Russia". The emptiness of this characteristically Nazi boast will be seen when it is remembered that independent countries like Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Sweden are still neutral in this struggle. Besides, the true representatives of the European countries now groaning under the Nazi yoke, *i.e.*, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, General Simovitch of Jugoslavia and Johan Nygardsvold, the Norwegian Prime Minister, have all declared their sympathy for Russia in her fight against the aggression

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PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE LII.

July ...12, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
13, Sunday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.		5.00 p. m.
	Kolavoipatti	...	6.00 p. m.
	Kilayur (South)	...	6.30 p. m.
14, Monday ...	College (B) Tamil	...	10.15 a. m.
	Odukkur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Nanguppatti	...	6.30 p. m.
15, Tuesday ...	Melur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Pillamangalam	...	6.30 p. m.
16, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
	Vellanur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Puthambur	...	6.30 p. m.
17, Thursday ...	Thiruvarangulam	...	6.00 p. m.
	Vamban	...	6.30 p. m.
18, Friday ...	Puliyur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Kannangudi	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LIII.

19, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
20, Sunday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
	Poovarasagudi	...	6.00 p. m.
	Venkatakulam	...	6.30 p. m.
21, Monday ...	College (B) Tamil	...	10.15 a. m.
	Perungalur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Adanakkottai	...	6.30 p. m.
22, Tuesday ...	Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
	Arimalam	...	6.00 p. m.
	Kilanilaikottai	...	6.30 p. m.
23, Wednesday	Kiranur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Nanjur	...	6.30 p. m.
24, Thursday ...	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
	Cheri School	...	5.30 p. m.
	Malampatti	...	6.00 p. m.
	Perambur	...	6.30 p. m.
25, Friday ...	Odayalippatti	...	6.00 p. m.
	Killukottai	...	6.30 p. m.

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